

# Stamp set celebrated George V jubilee

CHARLES J.G. VERGE



Figure 1. Canada issued six stamps in the 1935 Jubilee set to commemorate 25 years of the reign of King George V.

Seventy years ago, on May 4, 1935, Canada celebrated the 25th anniversary of the reign of King George V by issuing a series of six different engraved stamps (Scott 211-216, shown in Figure 1).

King George had come to the throne on May 6, 1910, succeeding his father, King Edward VII, who died on that day following a series of heart attacks.

May 6 was also the anniversary of the world's first postage stamp, Great Britain's famous Penny Black, which was issued in 1840. That coincidence is worth noting, for King George V was a keen philatelist.

The 1935 series is popularly known as the King George V Jubilee issue. The low values of the series show the line of succession to the king. The high value stamps picture subjects of particular interest to him.

The Prince of Wales is shown on the 5¢ stamp. He would later reign as King Edward VIII for 325 days in 1936 following the death of his father, George V.

The 2¢ stamp pictures Edward's brother, the Duke of York. Following Edward's abdication in December 1936, the duke became King George VI

and reigned until he died in 1952.

The daughter of the Duke of York, Princess Elizabeth (who reigns today as Queen Elizabeth II) appears on the 1¢ stamp.

At the time these stamps were issued, these three were next in line to the throne after King George V.

King George V and Queen Mary, in coronation robes, are seen on the 3¢ issue.

Windsor Castle and the Royal Yacht *Britannia* were chosen for the 10¢ and 13¢ stamps, respectively.

On April 1, 1935, the contract to print Canadian stamps reverted to the Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN). The company had lost the contract exactly five years earlier after holding it from 1897 to 1930.

The new contract must have been awarded earlier and written to take effect on April 1, since CBN was already working on the Jubilee issue in February and probably earlier. As shown in Figure 2, many of the approved signed die proofs are dated in February and March.

The stamp production table on the next page lists, for each value, the dates that Postmaster General Arthur Sauvé approved the different production steps. It should be noted that the approved photomontage models for the 10¢ and 13¢ designs are signed but not dated

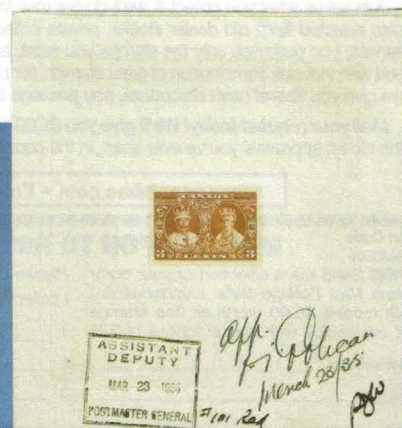


Figure 2. Final approval die proof signed by the Postmaster General and the Deputy Postmaster General. Examples of these exist for all values in Jubilee set. Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives, [POS-004366].



Figure 3. Photomontage model for the 13¢ Royal Yacht *Britannia* stamp. Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [1989-040.000216-065].





**Figure 4.** Die proof of the 13¢ design in deep violet. The color of stamp as issued is blue.  
Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [1990-241.0216].

(Figure 3). Furthermore, sometime between the approval for engraving and the approval for color, the 13¢ design was changed from deep violet to blue. Figure 4 shows the deep violet proof.

A second table on page 30 lists all the artists who worked on the Jubilee set and the photographers whose work was at the origin of the designs.

The exception is the 10¢ stamp, where the photographer's name is not recorded. The photograph shows Windsor Castle, the world's largest inhabited castle, in a view taken from the Buckinghamshire side of the Thames River.

It is worth noting that this is but one of only a handful of Canadian stamps since 1851 that show a scene from outside the country.

The designer for this set was Herman H. Schwartz.

Most of the stamps were based on photographs from well-known court photographers: Marcus Adam, Ber-

| Production dates for the 1935 King George V Jubilee issue<br>Dates on die proofs from the Canadian Postal Archives |               |                     |                           |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Value  | Photo montage | Engraving approval  | Color & printing approval |
| 1¢   | February 4    | March 3             | March 13                  |
| 2¢   | February 4    | March 6             | March 18                  |
| 3¢   | February 4    | March 18            | March 23                  |
| 5¢   | February 4    | March 22            | March 27                  |
| 10¢  | Undated       | March 12            | March 23                  |
| 13¢  | Undated       | March 7 (in violet) | March 13 (in blue)        |

tram Park and the firm of W. & D. Downey. Only one design was based on a painting, and that was Arthur James Wetherall Burgess' rendition of the royal yacht Britannia. The painting belongs to the Royal Collection, and permission from King George V had to be obtained before it could be shown on the 13¢ Jubilee stamp.

All six stamps were engraved, and intaglio (recess) printed on the flatbed press. Three plates were made for the 3¢, and two for each of the other values (1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢ and 13¢).

All of the stamps were perforated gauge 12.

The 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ values were manufactured in the small size customary of Canadian low-value definitives of the time, and even of today: 24mm×21mm. The small size stamps were printed in sheets of 400 with gutters between each pane of 100.

The larger horizontal stamps were printed in sheets of 200. The 3¢ and 10¢ had gutters between the panes of

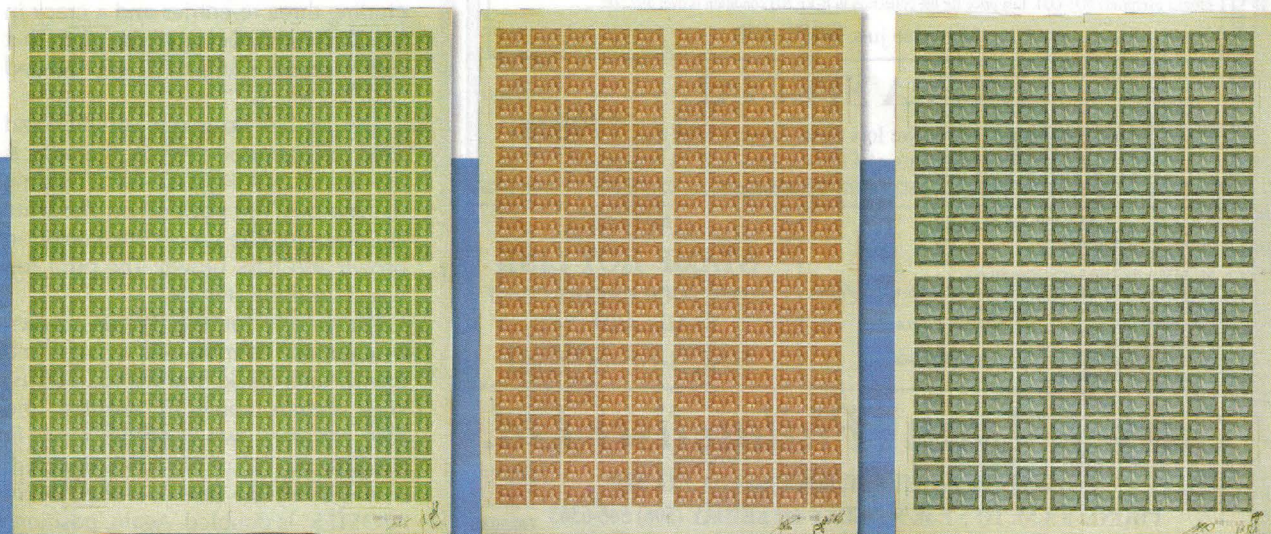
50, while the 13¢ had only a horizontal gutter between the top and bottom panes of 100 (Figure 5).

There are also intentionally imperforate stamps of the Jubilee set that have since made their way into collector hands: 200 each of the 1¢ Plate 2, 2¢ Plate 1, and 5¢ Plate 2 (Figure 6); and 300 each of the 3¢ Plate 2, 10¢ Plate 2 and 13¢ Plate 1.

The 1¢ and 2¢ were the only values precanceled, and that was at Rock Island, Quebec, and nowhere else.

The Canadian Postal Archives have none of the original photographs used for this series, although its holdings include a photograph of an engraved vignette of Princess Elizabeth by William Jung based on Marcus Adam's photograph (Figure 7).

There are two shades of the 1¢ found on the 30.5 million stamps printed: light and dark green. This stamp also has a major variety called "The Weeping Princess" because the flaw resembles a tear on the cheek of the princess (Figure 8). It is found on



**Figure 5.** Three different formats of printing sheets for the Jubilee issue. Images courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [POS-004368, POS-004371, POS-004374].



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Figure 6. Imperforates of the 5¢ Prince of Wales issue. Imperforates exist for each of the six Jubilee values. Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [1989-565.000214-011].

the upper right Plate 1 pane in position 21.

The conventional wisdom states that it was likely caused by a dropped tool during the plating process when the die was being rocked in. Although it was retouched later, the retouch can be seen under a strong magnifying glass.

Neil Donen, in his web site on the King George V Silver Jubilee issue, [www.philatel2.com/jubilee/id141.htm](http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/id141.htm), has another explanation. He writes that the flaw is due to a small piece of tin foil or silver paper, which was used to wrap printing plates before use, being stuck on the plate. He states that three types of the variety exist: the original flaw, the retouched flaw and the "tear drop moved" flaw, where the "foil appears to have moved marginally (1/2 mm) to [the] right of [its] usual position prior to being finally removed."

Forgeries of the Weeping Princess variety exist.

Plate 2 has a number of varieties, including three re-entries and a crack in the chrome surfacing of the plate that runs through stamps 70, 80, 90 and 100.

The 2¢ has no major varieties and only one reported re-entry that affects the words "DUKE OF YORK" below the portrait. The position on the plate is unknown. Die proofs are known in brown and dark brown. The print run was 31 million stamps.

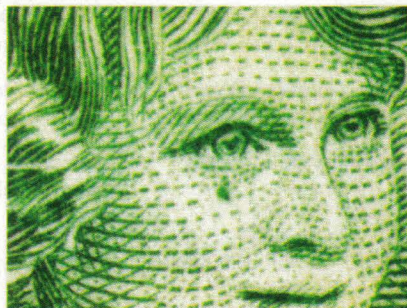
Die proofs for the 3¢ are known in carmine, carmine-red, orange, red brown and black. The 60,425,000 issued stamps come in carmine and rose carmine. Two re-entries exist. In the first, the "1" of "1910" is doubled. In the other, the line over the "O" of "POSTES" is doubled. Again, positions are not reported for these re-entries.

The Prince of Wales was well known for the marked interest he showed in





**Figure 7. Photo of the engraved vignette of Princess Elizabeth by William Jung. Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [1990-241.0227].**



**Figure 8. The "Weeping Princess" is a scarce and well-known variety of the 1c Princess Elizabeth issue. Image courtesy of Ralph E. Trimble, Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada.**

the use of his likeness. Therefore it is not surprising that there exist rough essays for the 5¢, as there are for other proposed Canadian stamps and coins showing his portrait.

The American Bank Note Co. (ABN), the parent company of CBN, prepared these. The first is a water-color for a 5¢ stamp in dark blue and Chinese white, painted on tracing paper mounted on lined paper. The second is for an 8¢ value, in grey, black and Chinese white, was painted on tissue paper mounted on lined paper. Charles Mack painted both essays,

which are shown in Figure 9.

Die proofs exist in black as well as the color of issue (blue).

There are two varieties of this stamp. Both can be found in the lower left pane of Plate 2. In position 51 there is a dash of color in the last "A" of

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| 219     | 29.00    | 308     | 52.00   | 402     | 84.00   | 478     | 935.00  |
| 219D    | 300.00   | 309     | 176.00  | 403     | 200.00  | 479     | 467.50  |
| 220     | 26.80    | 310     | 520.00  | 404     | 1100.00 | 480     | 382.50  |
| 221     | 88.00    | 311     | 840.00  | 405     | 6.50    | 481     | 1.30    |
| 222     | 96.00    | 312     | 1445.00 | 406     | 6.50    | 482     | 2.30    |
| 223     | 88.00    | 313     | POR     | 407     | 93.50   | 483     | 19.00   |
| 224     | 92.00    | 314     | 28.00   | 408     | 1.80    | 484     | 14.00   |
| 225     | 64.00    | 315     | 440.00  | 409     | 1.80    | 486     | 1.20    |
| 226     | 200.00   | 319     | 7.20    | 410     | 8.00    | 487     | 19.50   |
| 227     | 252.00   | 320     | 28.00   | 410 LP  | 49.50   | 488     | 4.25    |
| 228     | 440.00   | 323     | 32.00   | 411     | 11.50   | 488 LP  | 23.40   |
| 229     | 640.00   | 324     | 29.00   | 411 LP  | 64.00   | 489     | 5.95    |
| 230     | 28.00    | 325     | 100.00  | 412     | 30.00   | 489 LP  | 38.00   |
| 231     | 19.95    | 326     | 108.00  | 412 LP  | 136.00  | 490     | 75      |
| 232     | 72.00    | 327     | 208.00  | 413     | 53.50   | 490 LP  | 5.30    |
| 233     | 104.00   | 328     | 25.20   | 413 LP  | 315.00  | 492     | 11.00   |
| 234     | 112.00   | 329     | 32.00   | 414     | 54.00   | 492 LP  | 68.00   |
| 235     | 108.00   | 330     | 136.00  | 415     | 62.00   | 493     | 20.00   |
| 236     | 96.00    | 331     | 8.00    | 416     | 54.00   | 493 LP  | 136.00  |
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| 238     | 295.00   | 333     | 35.00   | 418     | 102.00  | 494 LP  | 81.00   |
| 239     | 380.00   | 334     | 46.75   | 419     | 235.00  | 495     | 13.50   |
| 240     | 720.00   | 335     | 53.00   | 420     | 153.00  | 495 LP  | 93.50   |
| 246     | 36.00    | 336     | 72.25   | 421     | 510.00  | 496     | 4.65    |
| 247     | 72.00    | 337     | 53.00   | 422     | 320.00  | 496 LP  | 38.25   |
| 248     | 34.00    | 338     | 76.00   | 423     | 320.00  | 497     | 24.65   |
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| 258     | 308.00   | 348     | 38.00   | 433     | 60.00   | 506     | 15.75   |
| 259     | 320.00   | 348 LP  | 300.00  | 434     | 33.00   | 507     | 33.00   |
| 260     | 580.00   | 349     | 85.00   | 435     | 34.00   | 508     | 15.75   |
| 261     | 1,040.00 | 350     | 178.50  | 437     | 150.00  | 509     | 17.85   |
| 264     | 7.60     | 351     | 192.00  | 438     | 260.00  | 510     | 22.50   |
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| 266     | 38.50    | 353     | 98.00   | 440     | 775.00  | 512     | 11.90   |
| 267     | 6.40     | 354     | 225.00  | 441     | 1.40    | 513     | 17.00   |
| 268     | 44.00    | 355     | 245.00  | 441 LP  | 9.50    | 514     | 51.00   |
| 269     | 48.00    | 367     | 6.00    | 442     | 12.50   | 515     | 59.50   |
| 270     | 48.00    | 368     | 29.95   | 442 LP  | 64.00   | 516     | 51.00   |
| 271     | 104.00   | 369     | 265.00  | 443     | 30.00   | 517     | 88.00   |
| 272     | 72.00    | 370     | 10.00   | 443 LP  | 200.00  | 518     | 80.00   |
| 273     | 104.00   | 371     | 46.00   | 444     | 45.00   | 519     | 470.00  |
| 274     | 240.00   | 372     | 14.00   | 444 LP  | 350.00  | 523     | 795.00  |
| 275     | 340.00   | 373     | 50.00   | 445     | 330.00  | 524     | 290.00  |
| 276     | 720.00   | 374     | 8.00    | 446     | 180.00  | 525     | 3.10    |
| 276A    | 1,530.00 | 375     | 7.65    | 447     | 65.00   | 526     | 32.00   |
| 277     | 1,360.00 | 376     | 23.50   | 447 LP  | 230.00  | 527     | 25.50   |
| 279     | 12.00    | 377     | 34.00   | 448     | 9.00    | 528     | 11.50   |
| 279B    | 12.00    | 378     | 34.00   | 448 LP  | 53.00   | 528A    | 68.00   |
| 280     | 40.00    | 379     | 40.50   | 450     | 12.75   | 528B    | 28.00   |
| 281     | 44.00    | 380     | 132.00  | 450 LP  | 85.00   | 529     | 4.25    |
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| 282C    | 224.00   | 382     | 310.00  | 452 LP  | 85.00   | 531     | 12.75   |
| 283     | 136.00   | 383     | 4.00    | 453     | 170.00  | 532     | 51.00   |
| 284     | 176.00   | 384     | 7.20    | 454     | 124.00  | 533     | 255.00  |
| 285     | 36.00    | 385     | 41.00   | 455     | 12.35   | 534     | 18.70   |
| 286     | 32.00    | 386     | 72.50   | 455 LP  | 68.00   | 534A    | 49.30   |
| 287     | 176.00   | 387     | 170.00  | 457     | 38.50   | 535     | 11.00   |
| 288     | 176.00   | 390     | 5.95    | 458     | 45.00   | 536     | 21.25   |
| 289     | 240.00   | 390 LP  | 47.00   | 458 LP  | 225.00  | 537     | 10.00   |
| 290     | 240.00   | 391     | 41.00   | 460     | 1020.00 | 538     | 13.60   |
| 291     | 840.00   | 391 LP  | 470.00  | 461     | 170.00  | 540     | 15.30   |
| 292     | 1,480.00 | 392     | 27.00   | 462     | 11.00   | 541     | 45.00   |
| 293     | 2,890.00 | 392 LP  | 360.00  | 463     | 5.95    | 542     | 15.50   |
| 294     | 22.80    | 393     | 50.00   | 464     | 93.50   | 543     | 1.00    |
| 295     | 20.00    | 393 LP  | 540.00  | 465     | 58.00   | 545     | 220.00  |
| 296     | 100.00   | 394     | 60.00   | 466     | 93.50   | 546     | 128.00  |
| 297     | 120.00   | 394 LP  | 720.00  | 467     | 765.00  | 547     | 232.00  |
| 298     | 148.00   | 395     | 60.00   | 468     | 111.00  | 548     | 4.40    |
| 299     | 200.00   | 395 LP  | 720.00  | 469     | 127.50  | 549     | 7.00    |

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Figure 9. Essays for the 5¢ Prince of Wales stamp painted with face values of 5¢ and 8¢.  
Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [1993-032.01, 1993-032.02].

Artists for the 1935 King George V Jubilee issue  
Herman H. Schwartz, designer

| Value | Subject                                    | Original Art                     | Portrait finisher(s)             | Engravers   |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1¢    | Princess Elizabeth<br>(Queen Elizabeth II) | Marcus Adam<br>(photographer)    | Edwin H. Gunn<br>William F. Ford | William Jung<br>Carroll Maybie                    |
| 2¢    | Duke of York<br>(King George VI)           | Bertram Park<br>(photographer)   | Edwin H. Gunn                    | Sydney F. Smith                                   |
| 3¢    | King George V<br>& Queen Mary              | W. & D. Downey<br>(photographer) | Edwin H. Gunn                    | Sydney F. Smith<br>Carroll Maybie                 |
| 5¢    | Prince of Wales<br>(Kind Edward VIII)      | Bertram Park<br>(photographer)   | Edwin H. Gunn                    | Élie T. Loiseaux                                  |
| 10¢   | Windsor Castle                             | unknown<br>photographer          | —                                | Joseph Keller<br>Arthur C. Vogel<br>Harold Osborn |
| 13¢   | Royal Yacht Britannia                      | A.J.W. Burgess<br>(painter)      | —                                | Harold Osborn                                     |

"CANADA," and in position 90 there is a hairline in the right value tablet. No color shades are known for the 3,050,000 stamps printed.

There are no major varieties reported for this stamp. Die proofs exist in green, dark green and olive green. The printer delivered 3,125,000 stamps of this value.

The major collectible variety of the 13¢ value is the so-called "shilling"

mark between the "1" and "3" in the left tablet (Figure 10). This variety is found in position 78 of the upper pane of Plate 1. The dash is reminiscent of the diagonal line found when writing values for British sterling currency. For example one shilling three pence is represented as 1/3.

No color shades exist and 1,100,000 stamps were printed. Die proofs exist in violet, deep violet and blue.



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O CANADA



Figure 10. The "shilling" variety of the 13c stamp includes a diagonal mark in the left value tablet. Image courtesy of Saskatoon Stamp Centre, [www.saskatoonstamp.com](http://www.saskatoonstamp.com).



Figure 11. A painted 50c essay for the Britannia stamp. The issued stamp has a 13c denomination. Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [1993-032-03].

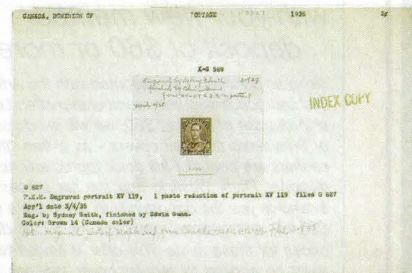


Figure 12. Index card for the 2c Duke of York stamp. The Canadian Postal Archives has reference index cards for all values of the Jubilee set. Image courtesy of Canadian Postal Archives [POS-002616].

The ABN also prepared an essay, but it was for a 50c Royal Yacht Britannia stamp (Figure 11). This Charles Mack watercolor artwork is done on tissue paper mounted on lined paper in ultramarine and Chinese white.

For inventory purposes, the ABN and, by extension, the CBN, kept index cards on all the stamps the firm printed for different countries. These have made their way into the public domain and some are now in the CPA, including those for the King George V Jubilee issue (Figure 12). These cards give all the basic information relevant to the stamp and its production.