

Stamps celebrated UPU Congress

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Fifty years ago, from August 14 to September 27, 1957, Canada hosted the 14th Universal Postal Union Congress in Ottawa, Ontario, an event celebrated with a pair of stamps (Figure 1, Scott 371-372). The September 27 closing date is taken from *The Postmark*, the official magazine of Canada's Post Office Department, and may have been the official scheduled closing date.

A letter from A.M. Girond, a delegate from Switzerland, contained in the cover illustrated in Figure 2 in the possession of Robert C. Smith, was mailed from the Congress Post Office on October 4. In it Girond states that the acts of Congress were signed on October 3 and that Congress was packing up on October 4, the day the letter was mailed.

Figure 1. Canada issued two stamps August 14, 1957, to commemorate the 14th Universal Postal Union Congress in Ottawa, Ontario.



Figure 3. The Centre Block of the Canadian Parliament buildings with the Peace Tower in the center, the Senate wing on the right and the House of Commons wing on the left is shown on this \$1 stamp from Canada's 1928-1929 definitive series.

The Canadian government viewed the Congress as so important that it took the unusual measure of having the delegates meet in the Parliament buildings of Canada (Figure 3, Scott 159) with the Senate chamber being the setting for the opening ceremonies.

Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker (Figure 4, Scott 859) formally opened the congress, which was presided over by Canada's Deputy Postmaster General W.J. Turnbull. More than 350 delegates from 91 of the then 96 member countries attended, and plenary sessions were held in the House of Commons.

This was the first and only time that the UPU Congress met in Canada. Ear-

lier, in 1933, a preparatory commission or UPU Executive Committee meeting was held in Ottawa, from May 18 to June 28, to prepare for the 1934 10th congress in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was commemorated on a 5¢ stamp (Figure 5, Scott 202).

To commemorate the 14th congress, the Post Office issued two stamps: a 5¢ stamp for the domestic rate and a 15¢ stamp for the airmail rate to most European countries.

A number of essays were prepared for both values (Figure 6) before the Post Office settled on drawings prepared by Montreal artist Carl Mangold. Several are shown in Figure 7. Mangold's drawings can be seen in Figure 8.

Mangold (Figure 9) was born in Switzerland in 1901 and died in 1984. Despite his parents wishes he studied to become a painter in his native Switzerland and in Germany,

Figure 2. The cover whose contents indicate that the Acts of Congress were signed on October 3 and proved that the post office was open at least until October 4.

Courtesy Robert C. Smith



Figure 4. John G. Diefenbaker (1895-1979) served as prime minister of Canada from 1957 to 1963.



Figure 5. This cover, franked with three 1933 5¢ stamps celebrating the meeting of the UPU Executive Committee, is likely a philatelic cover, since it is doubtful that this envelope contained seven ounces of material. The British Empire 15¢ rate was 3¢ for the first ounce (including a 1¢ war tax) and 2¢ each for subsequent ounces. In this instance an additional six ounces would have been needed to justify the postage.

Courtesy Robert C. Smith

Italy, France and Portugal. He emigrated to Canada in 1928 and established his studio in Montreal in 1931. He was a consulting artist for a number of companies, including Canadian Pacific, Bell Canada and Seagram's.

Mangold was a well-known stamp collector who was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He served for several years on Canada's Stamp Advisory Committee and also on the Canadian Postal Museum's Advisory Committee.

The UPU stamps were the only two that Mangold designed for Canada, and he was quite proud of this achievement. He signed blocks of stamps and first-day covers years after the stamps were issued. Two signed blocks are shown in Figure 10.

Once Mangold's designs were modified and approved in their final form (Figure 11), they were given to Yves Baril to engrave. Baril (Figure 12),



Figure 6. The two stamps issued for the 14th UPU Congress on a first-day cover posted in Vancouver, British Columbia, to Tashkent, USSR, an unusual and scarce destination. Courtesy Robert C. Smith



Figure 7. A variety of essays commissioned by Canada's Post Office Department for the UPU stamps. Note the 6¢ essay; the reason for the denomination is unknown.

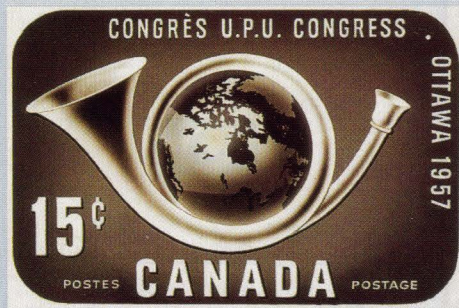


Figure 8. The preliminary drawings prepared by Carl Mangold for the issue. The 5¢ is done in pencil and gouache on tracing paper, while the 15¢ is a watercolor with gouache and airbrush on paper.



Figure 9. Carl Mangold (1901-1984), the designer of the 1957 5¢ and 15¢ 14th UPU Congress stamps.



Figure 10. Carl Mangoldt signed these blocks of four of the 5c and 15c UPU Congress stamps.

born in 1932, worked for the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBN) from 1953 until his retirement in 1996. He learned his craft as an apprentice to Silas Robert Allen and studied with other engravers at the American Bank Note Company in New York and Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company in London.

During his tenure at the CBN, he engraved 146 stamps for Canada, six for the United Nations and 11 for the United States. In addition, all Canadian bank notes issued between 1955 and 1996 display his engravings. At age 75, Baril still gives talks to philatelic and non-philatelic groups on the art of engraving.

Three trial colors were proofed for the 5c stamp in dark blue, brown and black and two for the 15c stamp in blue and dark blue (Figure 13) before the dark blue was selected for both stamps.

A special post office for the delegates was set up in the Centre Block of Parliament and was restricted to congress delegates and personnel. As a result very few purely philatelic covers were made except for those that might have been processed by delegates as souvenirs for stamp collectors.

In "The XIV Congress of the Postal Union — Ottawa," which appeared in the September-October 1994 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, James E. Kraemer writes, "The use of the special post office was so rigidly controlled that philatelic covers were not accepted." Kraemer goes on to say, "As a consequence, covers

processed at this post office are among the rarest of modern Canadian postal cancellations."

Delegates did not enjoy free-franking privileges. They were provided with free stationery with congress corner cards, and Canadian stamps were supplied to them at no charge.

An internal Post Office memorandum dated April 11, 1958, and signed by J.W. Craig, director of operations, lists the datestamps and other cancellations that were used during the congress. These included one canceling-machine die, two outer-rimmed steel hand-cancelled datestamps, two rotary band cancelers (also known as roller cancels), two money-order solid rubber stamps and four rubber office datestamps for the Canadian Secretariat.

The canceling-machine die, identified in the internal memorandum, referred only to the dater hub. It was used with

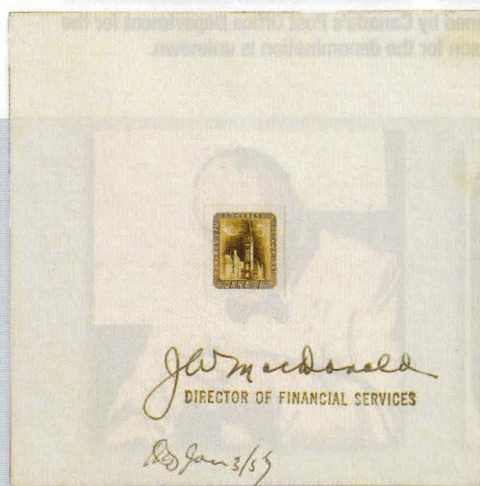


Figure 11. These are the essays that received final approval prior to engraving.



Figure 12. Yves Baril (born 1932), the engraver of the UPU stamps.



Figure 14. A Day of Issue slogan cancel is shown on this piece, canceling the two UPU Congress stamps issued August 14, 1957.



Figure 13. Three trial color proofs for the 5¢ stamp — dark blue, brown and black — and two for the 15¢ stamp — blue and dark blue.

two different sets of current canceling bars: the normal seven wavy lines seen in Figure 2 or the Post Office's First Day of Issue canceling bars (Figure 14).

The steel datestamps, one of which is seen in Figure 15, were different from each other. In one, the last "A" in "OTTAWA" is centered under the

"UN" of "UNIVERSEL" (type I), while in the other the "A" is centered under the "N" of the same word (type II).

There are no known uses of the roller cancels in collector hands (Figure 16). No commercial uses of the Money Order Office Number (MOON) stamps are known, but a small number of courtesy strikes were likely struck by staff of the Canadian Postal Museum (Figure 17).

Although the four rubber datestamps used by the secretariat were prepared

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Figure 15. This cover shows a type II steel hand cancel. Some delegations, such as that of Germany, brought their own specially printed stationery for use at the congress. The registration box used at the congress did not show any office name.

Courtesy Robert C. Smith



Figure 16. Strikes of the roller cancels showing at top the probable last day of use and at the bottom the probable first day of use.

Courtesy The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

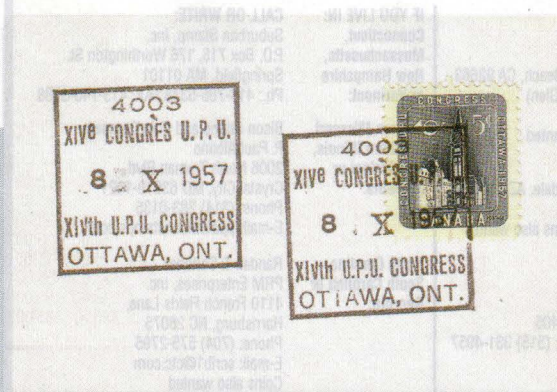


Figure 17. One of the favor Money Order Office Number covers. No commercial uses of the MOON cancels are known.

Courtesy Robert C. Smith

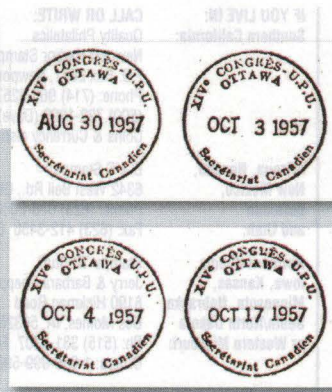


Figure 18. The four administrative rubber datestamps.

Courtesy The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

by the Post Office, it is highly unlikely that they were used to cancel mail. They were used for dating administrative documents. The proof copies shown in Figure 18 support this theory as they are all in French; postal cancellation devices in Canada, at the time, had to be in English or bilingual. A French-only administrative handstamp would be acceptable as the working language of the UPU is French.

Postcards and souvenir envelopes (1,000 prepared) bearing two different slogan meters were provided by the Pitney-Bowes of Canada Company Ltd. for the congress. The Malak Karsh souvenir postcard shows a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer in front of the Peace Tower of Parliament and was used in conjunction with the Mailomat postage meter (number 51010) machine demonstrated during the congress (Figure 19).

Pitney Bowes officials failed to secure the right to demonstrate their machine in the congress's post office and therefore elected to set up shop in the Chateau Laurier Hotel, where many of the delegates were residing.

Figure 20 shows an "overprint" of unknown origin used on a postal stationery envelope and posted in Newmarket, Ontario, some 400 kilometers (375 miles) from the site of the congress. It contained a contest entry and would seem to have no immediate connection with the congress, although the envelope was mailed when the congress was in session.

Should readers have additional information on this "overprint," it would be welcomed. Please send it care of the editor of *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Much of the information in this article comes from three sources: the official magazine of Canada's Post

June 2007

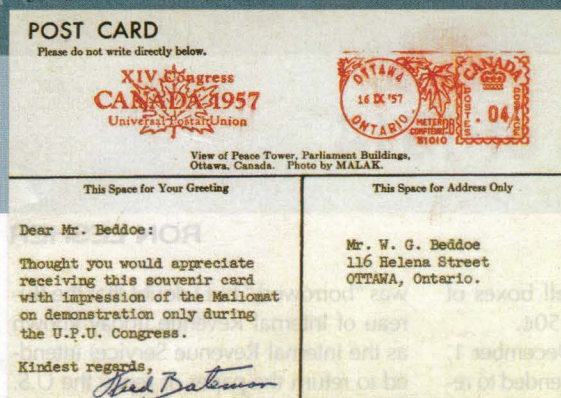


Figure 19. The obverse and reverse of the Pitney-Bowes Mailomat card.

Courtesy Robert C. Smith



Figure 20. Little is known about the "overprint" of unknown origin on this stamped envelope. The author is seeking additional information.

Courtesy Robert C. Smith

Office Department, The Postmark, Vol. 11, No. 7, August-September 1957, and Vol. 11, No. 8, October 1957; James E. Kraemer's "The XIV Congress of the Postal Union — Ottawa, which appeared in Vol. 45, No. 5, September-October 1994 issue of The Canadian Philatelist; and the one-frame exhibit of Robert C. Smith titled Universal Postal Union — Conferences in Canada. All illustrations of archival material and photographs of the designer and engraver are courtesy of the Canadian Postal Archives. The sources of other illustrations are noted when appropriate. ■

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548	1920 1¢ Pilgrim A, F, F-VF	670.00	450.00
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620	1925 2¢ Norse American, Beautiful Sheet of 100 VF-XF	1,000.00	895.00
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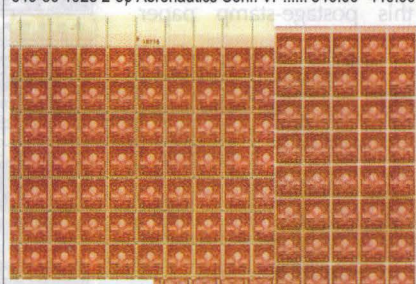
Scott No.	Description	Brookman Retail	Sale Price
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627	1926 2¢ Sequicentennial VF	250.00	195.00
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647	1928 2¢ Hawaii overprint F-VF	975.00	775.00
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649-50	1928 2-5¢ Aeronautics Conf. VF	540.00	440.00
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Scott No.	Description	Brookman Retail	Sale Price
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654-5	1929 2¢ Flat and Rotary Press Edison	290.00	235.00
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716	1932 2¢ Lake Placid F-VF	65.00	50.00
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737-38	1934 3¢ Flat + Rotary Press Mother's Day	36.50	25.00
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740-9	1934 1-10¢ National Parks F-VF	815.00	675.00
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785-94	1935-36 1-5¢ Army/Navy VF	315.00	250.00
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837	1938 3¢ NW Territory XF	45.00	35.00
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838	1938 3¢ Iowa Territory	47.50	35.00
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856	1939 3¢ Canal Zone XF	20.00	15.00
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903-8	1941-3 V/L Freedoms VF Set of 6	153.00	125.00
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1051	1954 50¢ Anthony F-VF	240.00	195.00
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1052	1952 \$1.00 Henry VF	725.00	585.00
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740-9	1934 1-10¢ National Parks F-VF	815.00	675.00
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785-94	1935-36 1-5¢ Army/Navy VF	315.00	250.00
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837	1938 3¢ NW Territory XF	45.00	35.00
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838	1938 3¢ Iowa Territory	47.50	35.00
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856	1939 3¢ Canal Zone XF	20.00	15.00
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903-8	1941-3 V/L Freedoms VF Set of 6	153.00	125.00
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1051	1954 50¢ Anthony F-VF	240.00	195.00
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1052	1952 \$1.00 Henry VF	725.00	585.00
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