

# Stamps explore Canada's ties to France

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**T**he relationship between Canada and France has been the frequent subject of stamps of both countries.

French explorers established the first permanent settlement in North America at Quebec City in 1608. Four hundred years later, Quebec City remains the only walled city in North America (Scott 601, Figure 1). Even though New France was conquered by the British in 1759 at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham (Scott 388, Figure 2) and jurisdiction transferred to Great Britain in 1763 by the Treaty of Paris, relations between Canada and France continued.

The history of French explorations in North America started almost a century before, in 1534, when Jacques Cartier (1491-1557) first visited the shores of the St. Lawrence River at Stadacona (Quebec City) and Hochelaga (Montreal). Cartier is credited for naming the country Canada when he claimed the lands for Francis I, the king of France.

Figure 3 shows a selection of stamps

bearing fictitious portraits of Cartier. No confirmed likeness of him has been found. Canada issued its first Cartier stamp in 1855. The imperforate 10-penny stamp (Scott 7) paid the transatlantic ship rate via New York. The stamp was reissued with a 17¢ denomination and with perforations in 1859 (Scott 19), when the country converted its sterling currency to a decimal monetary system. This stamp also paid the transatlantic rate via New York.

In 1934, Canada and France issued stamps to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Cartier's 1534 visit (Canada Scott 208, France Scott 296-297). The stamps are not considered joint issues because they do not share the same design and were issued on two separate dates: July 1 for Canada and July 18 for France.

Fifty years later, in 1984, a major national stamp show was held in Montreal. For that occasion, on April 20, Canada and France issued joint-issue stamps that show Cartier and his ship,

the *Grande Hermine* (Canada Scott 1011, France Scott 1923). The stamps were designed by Canadian Yves Paquin and engraved by Claude Haley of France. The stamps of both countries were printed by photogravure and engraved by the Imprimerie de Timbrespote of France.

In 1992, Canada issued yet another stamp for Cartier's voyages (Scott 1406, 1407a). On June 23, 2008, France issued a souvenir sheet of six 55-cent stamps that feature famous ships, including the *Grande Hermine* (Figure 4, Scott number not yet assigned).

Cartier is pictured with Samuel de Champlain (1580-1635) on a 1¢ stamp (Scott 97) issued in 1908 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City. The 5¢ stamp (Scott 99) of the same set depicts Habitation, the first residence built at Quebec City; the 15¢ stamp (Scott 102) shows



Figure 1. The city of Quebec is featured on this \$2 stamp issued by Canada in 1972.



Figure 2. The 200th anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham is honored on this 5¢ stamp issued in 1959. Fought outside the city of Quebec, this was the decisive battle of the Seven Years' War, which marked the beginning of the end of New France and secured Britain's hold on North America.



Figure 3. Canada and France have issued several stamps bearing the likeness of Jacques Cartier. No true portrait of the explorer has been found.





**Figure 4.** Cartier's ship, *Grande Hermine*, is featured on this souvenir sheet of six 55-cent stamp issued by France June 23 of this year. The ship is shown on the stamp to the right of "MAR."

Champlain leaving to explore the West; and the 20¢ stamp (Scott 103) commemorates Cartier's second voyage to Canada in 1535. The stamps are shown in Figure 5.

Fifty years later, in 1958, a single 5¢ stamp (Scott 379, Figure 6) was issued to recall the 350th anniversary of Quebec City. Two years earlier, in 1956, France issued a semipostal stamp that pictures Champlain (France Scott B305). The 1956 date chosen by France for this stamp coincided more or less with what was then believed to be Champlain's approximate birth year (1557). Further research has shown that he was born in 1580.

In 2002, in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of Quebec City, Canada Post and its Stamp Advisory Committee decided not to limit itself to the Que-

bec City anniversary but instead chose to honor the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France. Five domestic-rate stamps were issued between 2004 and 2008 (Scott 2044, 2115, 2155-2156, 2226 and 2269). Three of these stamps were joint issues — two with France (France Scott 3032 and an 85-cent stamp issued May 16, 2008) and one with the United States (Scott 4073, 4073a).

The five Canadian stamps, their French counterparts and the joint Canada-U.S. souvenir sheet are shown in Figure 7.

In addition to the normal collectibles, such as first-day covers, a number of other items might be of interest to ensure a complete collection of this series. The 2006 joint issue with the United States resulted in three ad-

ditional collectible varieties. Stamps from Canada's sheet of 16 and those from the souvenir sheet have different perforation measurements. The stamp from the sheet of 16 is perforated 13 by 12½ (Scott 2155), while the stamp from the souvenir sheet is perf 11 (Scott 2156a). The Canadian souvenir sheet, although identical to the sheet sold in the United States, has an additional barcode printed in the lower left corner of the sheet (Scott 2156, United States Scott 4074). The sheet version of the U.S. stamp (Scott 4073) is smaller than the Canadian stamp and the U.S. stamp from the joint-issue souvenir sheet.

France recently began to issue what is referred to as a souvenir philatélique (philatelic souvenir) for select stamp sets. These products contain a number of souvenir cards, six for the Quebec City Anniversary set, in the shape and size of horizontal greeting cards. The souvenirs can be used as greeting cards, although no envelopes are provided. On the back of each card is a brief description of the scene found on the picture side of the card.

Inside each card for the Quebec City set are individual souvenir sheets that feature six different maps or scenes drawn by Champlain. Each souvenir sheet includes the 85-cent stamp. One of the souvenir sheets also includes the Canadian version of the stamp. The stamps from the souvenir sheet can be distinguished from the single stamp be-



**Figure 5.** Four of the eight stamps issued by Canada July 16, 1908, to mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City.



**Figure 6.** Samuel de Champlain is shown on this 5¢ stamp issued in 1958. A view of Quebec appears in the background.



cause the typography is heavier on the souvenir sheet. It appears that single stamps and the souvenir sheet stamps were not printed on the same paper. It is likely that the Canadian version of

the stamp in the French souvenir sheet also is printed on a different paper than the stamp that was issued in Canada.

Canada has issued a number of stamps to commemorate many of the

French explorers and personalities who made their mark in New France. They include Bishop François-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval de Montigny (1623-1708), who served as the first

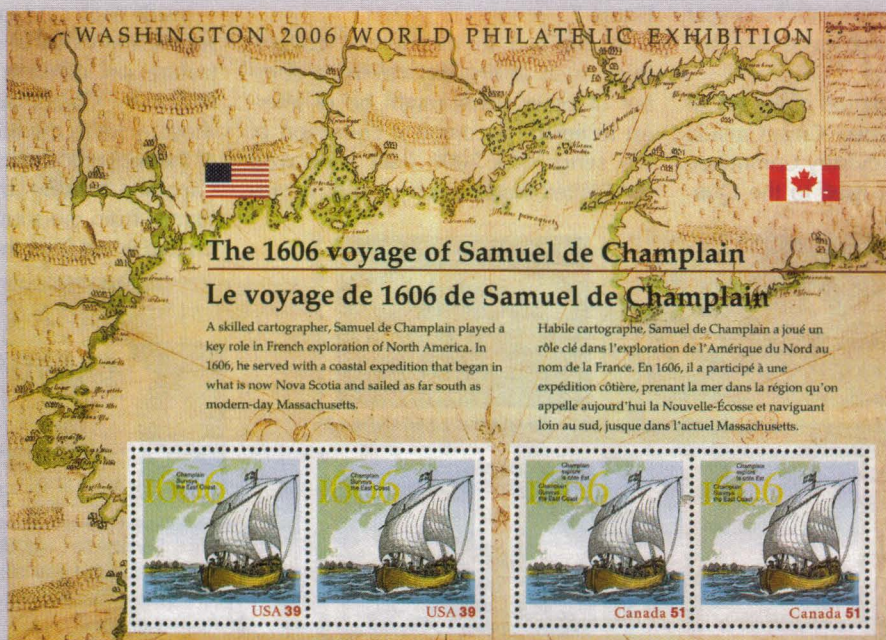


Figure 7. Canada joined with France and the United States to honor the 400th anniversary of the establishment of Quebec City.





**Figure 8.** François-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval de Montigny, the first bishop of Quebec, is honored on this 8¢ stamp issued by Canada in 1973.



**Figure 9.** This 8¢ stamp issued by Canada May 17, 1972, marks the 300th anniversary of the appointment of Louis de Buade as governor general of New France.



**Figure 10.** Jean Talon was the first administrator of New France. He is honored on this 5¢ stamp issued June 13, 1962.

bishop of New France from 1674 to 1688. Pope John Paul II beatified Monsignor de Laval on June 22, 1980 (Scott 611, Figure 8).

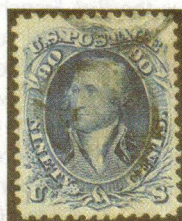
Louis de Buade, Count of Frontenac and Palluau (1622-98), served as governor general of New France from 1672 to 1682 and again from 1689 until his death in 1698 (Scott 561, Figure 9).

Jean Talon, Count of Orsainville (1625-94), was the first administrator of New France under Louis XIV (1665-72), with the title of intendant of justice,

police, and finances in Canada, Acadia, the island of Newfoundland and other countries of North American France (Scott 398, Figure 10). Talon was a prolific builder and developer of many of the industries of the time. In addition, he commissioned the first census and actively promoted immigration. The population of New France doubled, from 3,215 to 7,605, during his time in office.

Jeanne Mance (1606-73), Canada's first secular nurse (Scott 615, Figure

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Figure 11. Jean Mance, the first secular nurse in North America, is pictured on this 8¢ stamp issued April 18, 1973.

11), is considered, along with Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve, to be one of the founders, in 1642, of Ville-Marie, later renamed Montreal. Canada has not specifically issued a stamp to honor Maisonneuve (1612-72).

Two stamps were issued in 1992 to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the founding of Montreal (Scott 1404-1405, Figure 12).

Several founders of Canadian religious orders have been honored on stamps. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700), founder of the Congrégation Notre-Dame, is the subject of Scott 660. St. Marie-Marguerite, Mère d'Youville (née Marie-Marguerite Dufrost de la Jemmerais, widow of François d'Youville, 1701-71), founded the Sisters of Charity, better known as the Gray Nuns. She was the first Canadian-born person to be elevated to sainthood (Scott 768). Marie de l'Incarnation (née Marie Guyart and widow of Claude Martin, 1599-1672) was a mystic, author and the founder of the Ursuline Order (Scott 886). The three stamps are shown in Figure 13.

Louis Hébert (1575-1627) was the first settler in New France as well as its



Figure 12. The 350th anniversary of the founding of Montreal is the subject of these two stamps issued in 1992.

first apothecary, and was the first European to farm in Canada (Scott 1060, Figure 14).

Finally, several explorers have been honored on Canadian stamps, some of which are shown in Figure 15. René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle (1643-1687), also known as Robert de la Salle, is honored on Scott 446. La Salle explored the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, and claimed the Mississippi Basin for France. Étienne Brulé (1592-1633), fur trader, interpreter and a rugged outdoorsman who was the first Frenchman to live among the Hurons, is the subject of Scott 1126. Brothers-in-law Pierre-Esprit Radisson (1636-1710) and Médard Chouart des Groseilliers (1618-1696), who were fur traders and explorers in the northern Great Lakes, are honored on Scott 1127.

In 1668, they joined the English and led them, on the ship *Nonsuch* (Scott 482), into Hudson Bay



Figure 13. Founders of Canadian religious orders who have received stamp honors include Marguerite Bourgeoys, Marie-Marguerite and Marie de l'Incarnation.



Figure 14. Louis Hébert (1575-1627) was the first settler in New France and also its first apothecary and the first European to farm in Canada.

from the north, bypassing the land route from New France. After this successful expedition, the English founded the Hudson's Bay Company (Scott 1834a) in 1670.

Only two of the people shown in Figure 15 have been honored on French stamps: Maisonneuve (Scott B455) and La Salle (Scott 1848, Figure 16).

Many other Canadian and French stamps honor the unique links between the mother country and its former colony. Collectors can form an interesting collection with these stamps. ■

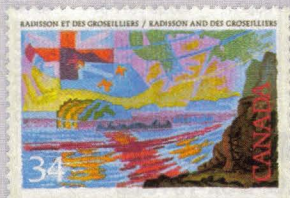


Figure 15. Several explorers of North America have been honored on Canada's stamps.



Figure 16. France pays tribute to René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, with this 3.25-franc stamp issued in 1982. La Salle explored the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River and as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.