

ICE HOCKEY: A MULTIFACETED COLLECTIBLE

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he purpose of this article is to show the many aspects of collecting ice hockey material. The sport, in opposition to field hockey, suffers from the same semantic problem as football.

For most of the world, football is soccer; for North Americans it is another sport altogether. For this article, I will refer to ice hockey as simply hockey. It is impossible to know how many collectors of hockey material there are in the collectible world. In philately, there have been several collections, stand-alone hockey thematic exhibits, and hockey chapters in Olympic or Sports thematics. As far as I know, there

has not been a Display/Open class exhibit on the subject. It would be hard to put three-dimensional skates, sticks, pucks, and masks on pages, although miniature hockey sticks are readily available. There are several ways of simply collecting hockey for the pleasure of collecting and delving into the history of the sport, and of enhancing your

[Author's note: Unless otherwise noted, all references to Scott numbers are for Canada. Scott numbers with additional Roman numerals such as "ii" or "vi" are sub-numbers found in The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps. All images, unless indicated otherwise, are from the author's collection or courtesy of the Unitrade Catalogue.]

hockey-themed exhibit or creating an exhibit on the subject in another class. This article mentions different types of material or approaches you could use to do so. Remember that whatever you collect or exhibit, it must have a focus and a scope, otherwise you will be overwhelmed by material and the vastness of your subject. To achieve your collecting objectives, you can mix and match different elements shown below. If you want to exhibit, you need to respect the rules of the class you exhibit in. However, if exhibiting is not your bag, collect as you please and enjoy the hobby and your chosen topic/subject.



Figure 1. *Hockey Match, Victoria Rink, Montreal, QC, composite, 1893.* Courtesy of McCord Museum. The photograph is a montage of William Notman's (1826-1891) studio-posed photos of individual players, with a painted-in background by G. Horne Russell, Royal Canadian Academy (1861-1933).

Figure 2. Famous explorer Sir John Franklin on Canada Scott 1234. Franklin is credited with the earliest known record of an ice hockey game, played on Great Bear Lake.



Figure 3. A selection of stamps from countries where hockey is played. From left: Russia Scott 4108, Sweden Scott 445 and Switzerland Scott B172.

The Beginnings of the Sport

Hockey as we know it today is generally accepted to have begun on March 3, 1875, at Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink, according to an advertisement submitted by the game's organizer, James Creighton, in the *Montreal Gazette* of that same day [Note 1]. Depicted on the post card in Figure 1 is a photo frequently purported to be an image of the 1875 game. It was published around 1893-95 in sepia and continued being published well into the first decades of the 20th century, sometimes colorized. Other areas of the country, including Windsor (1844) and Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Kingston, Ontario, claim to have been the original site of the first game.

However, the first recorded game of hockey on ice was played on Great Bear Lake in October 1825 by Sir John Franklin (1776-1847) and his crew members [Note 2]. Sir John was on his second overland expedition to the Arctic Ocean (1825-1827) and was wintering at Fort Franklin (currently Délina, North West Territories). Sir John's men skated and played hockey on the frozen lake. Their games were interrupted on October 20, 1825, by the first major snowstorm of the season. In his journal a few days later, Sir John mentioned the sports and the storm. On November 6, 1825, in a letter to his friend, geologist Sir Roderick Murchison (1792-1871), Sir John said, "[W]e endeavour to keep ourselves in good humour, health, and spirits by an agreeable variety of useful occupation and amusement. Till the snow fell the game of hockey played on the ice was the morning's sport."

According to historian Walter "Bill" Fitsell, the players presumably used field hockey sticks or sticks fashioned from branches, with the "puck" perhaps a stopper from a barrel or a keg. However, many experts, including Fitsell, say Délina's claim as the "birthplace" of ice hockey is a clear overstatement, as the game was not organized with a set of rules. In 1898, a stamp (Scott 1234) was issued in the Exploration of Canada series to commemorate Sir John, shown in Figure 2. The full story of Sir John and his explorations is well documented and beyond the scope of this article.



Figure 5. A selection of stamps from countries where hockey is not played but there is a financial advantage to issuing such stamps. From top left: Guinea Scott 333, Maldives Scott 440 and Mali Scott C141.



Figure 6. Philatelic hockey collecting can also include machine cancellations and meters.



Figure 7. The cachet or illustrated portion of a first day cover makes a nice addition to a hockey collection, particularly if you can identify the designer and the manufacturer.



Figure 8. This USSR post card is an example of an illustrated stationery item. They can be in other formats as well, such as envelopes and wrappers.



Figure 9. Post offices, airlines and individuals frequently commemorate a mail-carrying first flight by introducing a relevant illustration.

Stamps

You can collect, either topically or thematically [Note 3], stamps that show hockey, its rules, its players and its equipment. The three stamps in Figure 3 are from countries that are powerhouses in international hockey: Russia (Scott 4108), Sweden (Scott 445) and Switzerland (Scott B172). The Swiss stamp is the first in the world to represent the game, issued for the 1948 Winter Olympic Games. You can also branch out and include stamps not showing hockey directly. The three stamps in Figure 4 show contributing sports in early hockey development such as bandy (Russia Scott 2998), hurling (Ireland Scott 90) and rugby football (Great Britain Scott 456). You can narrow your scope and eliminate stamps, for example in Figure 5, from countries that issue stamps on hockey but whose citizens do not play the game: Guinea (Scott 333), Maldives (Scott 440) and Mali (Scott C141).

Slogan Postmarks and Meter Slogans

Figure 6 shows a couple of machine slogan postmarks from Canada and Switzerland and a couple of postal meters from the United States. These would enhance any thematic or display/open collection. The fun part of collecting these is researching their origin and time frames of use. Were they issued for a special event or were they in constant use? Did more than one city or company use the postal marking/meter? How long was it used for: days, weeks, months, years? What is the earliest known date of use? What is the latest? Were different colored inks used for the same marking? Who were the manufacturers of the postal slogans and the postal meters? And on and on it goes.

Cachets and Postal Stationery

Cachets – the illustrations added to a cover – as shown in Figures 7 through 9, are interesting collectible



Figure 10. An upper left corner plate block of the 1956 Canadian hockey issue (Canada's first).

items in themselves, and can be found on commercial mail, first day covers, material related to airmail first flights, and even postal stationery. Although all of these can be used in a display/open class exhibit, they are not permitted in some of the other classes. The first day cover (FDC) cachet prepared by "C. G. Junior III" [Note 4] in Figure 7 would only be acceptable in a FDC exhibit. Figure 8, a Russian postal stationery card, would display well in both a postal stationery and thematic exhibit. The first flight cover in Figure 9, although very acceptable in an aerophilately exhibit or in a specialized study of the stamp on the envelope, is a dicier item for a thematic exhibit. Its cachet was officially prepared by the Post Office but many thematicists consider it as borderline and would prefer not seeing it in an exhibit in their class. Between 1929 and 1950, the Canada Post Office prepared and applied these official cachets, in one form or another and using different designs, for mail on official first flights during this period.

Specialized Study of a Stamp

Your hockey collection does not have to be a topical collection. You can build a complete collection on one single stamp issue, or on a single series, in two ways. The first is a more traditional way, in which the collector or exhibitor concentrates on the stamp, its production, and its postal history/usages. The other approach would include a first day cover perspective, perhaps in addition to the traditional elements. We will take Scott 359, Canada's first stamp about hockey, as an example for the potential starting point of a collection or an exhibit.

From an exhibiting perspective, the FDC-type exhibit is more lenient on some of the material that can be shown, compared to the traditional approach. Figures 10 through 16, and Figure 7 on page 401, are all items that can be used for a specialized study of a stamp. In addition to the plate block of the stamp in Figure 10 (Scott 359), the press release



Figure 11. A photograph produced by Canada's Post Office Department to send out with its press release announcing the new stamp.

photo in Figure 11 and the Post Office advertising poster in Figure 12 [Note 5] are the only items illustrated here that can be used in a traditional approach [Note 6]. All these items, and Figure 7, are acceptable in a FDC approach. Figure 13, the *Popular Stamps* periodical of December 1955, and Figure 14, the Canadian Bank Note Company FDC [Note 7] and its letter insert, would fit well in a FDC exhibit [Note 8]. Figures 15 and 16 are more controversial as they are scans of the preliminary unaccepted and final designs of the stamp and its final design (Figure 15) accompanied by a scanned photograph of the designer, James H. Simpkins (1910-2004, Note 9) and his famous cartoon bear, Jasper (Figure 16). They likely would barely pass muster in a traditional exhibit and not fare much better in a FDC approach. The saving grace for Figure 15 in both cases is the fact that the unaccepted design does not exist in private hands. If it did, this scan would be totally inappropriate.

Thematic Studies

There are many varied sub-topics that can be collected in the hockey area. Some have a limited scope and others can be housed in dozens of albums. A few examples are shown below.

I. Politicians

Although the examples shown here are from Canada, there are likely many other domestic and foreign hockey players or officials who have morphed into politicians once their hockey careers were over. The first mentioned here is Lionel Conacher (1901-1954), a member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament (1937-1943) and of the Canadian House of Commons (1945-1954). He was voted Canada's top athlete of the first half of the 20th century and won

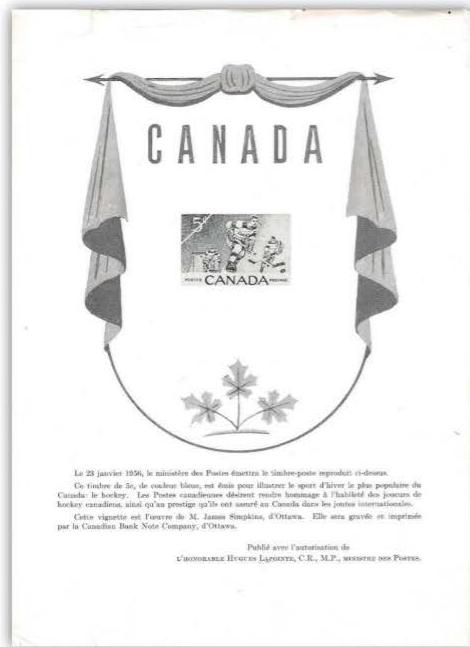


Figure 12. Post Office lobby poster announcing the new stamp to postal patrons. Over the years, the posters came in different formats and in color as well.

championships in many sports, including football, baseball, hockey, wrestling, boxing, and lacrosse. For years he urged postal authorities to issue a stamp for hockey. He advised Simpkins in the design of the stamp in Figure 10, issued in 1956. Figure 17 was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the awarding of the Memorial Cup (Scott 3101, 3101a). Conacher was on the winning Memorial Cup team in 1920.

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson (1897-1972), a Nobel Peace prize winner, was Canada's 14th Prime Minister (1963-68) and member of the House of Commons (1948-1968). His political and diplomatic careers are well documented. He was a noted athlete particularly in rugby union, baseball, lacrosse, and basketball. He played for the Oxford University ice hockey club while studying in England. He was asked to play for Great Britain in the 1924 Winter Olympics but turned down the offer. Figure 18 (Scott 591), a 6¢ definitive in the 1973-76 Prime Ministers series, shows you how specialized you can take a single part of your hockey collection. Figure 18 illustrates precancel blocks, regular and precanceled perforation shift varieties and a first day of issue cancel (October 17, 1973) from the House of Commons Post Office.

Governor-General Roland Michener (1900-1991) was elected to the Ontario Provincial Parliament in 1945 and was defeated in 1948. In 1953, he was elected a member of the House of Commons and was its Speaker from 1957 until

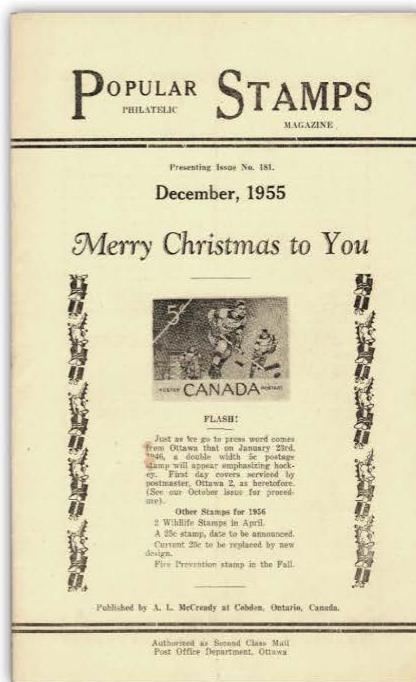


Figure 13. The cover of the December 1955 issue of *Popular Stamps* announcing the new issue. At the time, *Popular Stamps* was the premier philatelic periodical in Canada.

his defeat in the 1962 election. Queen Elizabeth II appointed Michener as Canada's 20th Governor General (1967-1974). A Rhodes scholar, Michener met Pearson while both were playing for the Oxford University ice hockey team. As Governor General, Michener was portrayed on Scott 1447 shortly after his death and his name can be found on Scott 1940, a stamp celebrating the 50th anniversary of Canadian citizens becoming Governors General (Figure 19). Michener supported a hockey club in his riding [electoral district], St. Paul's, and used a photograph of himself and the team printed on an ink blotter to promote his political career (Figure 20) - another useful element for a hockey collection. Incidentally, Queen Elizabeth II can legitimately be included in a hockey collection. While still a princess she attended a hockey game in 1951 between the Montreal Canadiens and the New York Rangers. In 2002 she dropped a ceremonial puck at the start of a game between the Vancouver Canucks and the San Jose Sharks. Six years later she dropped a puck to start a game in Slovakia between the Aqua City Propads and the Guildford Flames. However, beware adding Queen Elizabeth II to your want list, lest you inadvertently back yourself into a Machins collection.

II. The Stanley Cup/Isobel Cup

The most famous award in hockey history is the Stanley

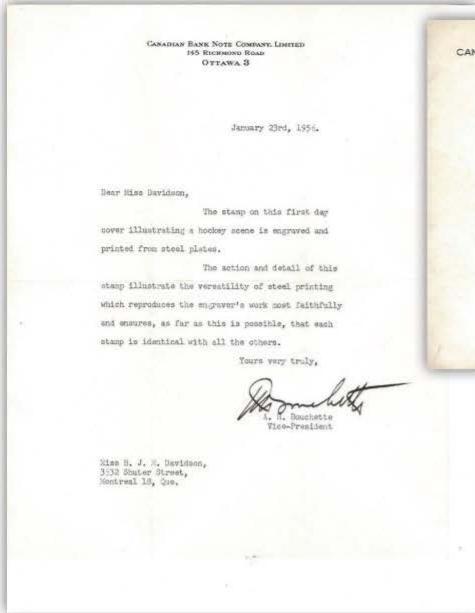


Figure 14. Canadian stamp security printers like the Canadian Bank Note Co. issued first day covers to promote the company's printing capabilities. Produced from 1948 to 1987, they are difficult to find as they were only prepared for major customers and requests from philatelists were refused. Accompanied by the FDC's insert, left.



Figure 15. From Lorne Bentham's "Canadian News and Comments: Cartoonist Drew Hockey 5¢ Design" in the February 1956 Scott's Monthly Journal. The finished artwork on the right includes several minor changes: the players' uniforms have the word "Canada" added; the main player's head and shoulders have been slightly turned; a puck has been added; and the lettering of "Canada" at the bottom has been strengthened.

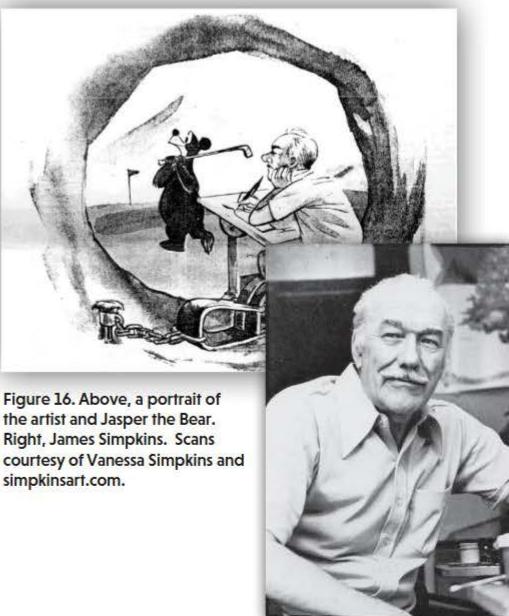


Figure 16. Above, a portrait of the artist and Jasper the Bear. Right, James Simpkins. Scans courtesy of Vanessa Simpkins and simpkinsart.com.

Cup (Figure 21, Scott 3026) [Note 10]. Named after and donated by Lord Stanley of Preston (1841-1908), later 16th Earl of Derby, 6th Governor General of Canada (1888-1893) (Figure 22), it was originally named the Dominion Hockey Challenge Cup (Figure 23). There are many other elements that would fit in a hockey collection; for example, postcards for the 1905-6 Stanley Cup championship [Note 11]. Figures 24 and 25 show, respectively, the Ottawa Hockey Club, the eventual winner, and the Queen's University Hockey Team, two of the five teams that played for the Cup in the challenge round [Note 12]. The others were the Dawson City Nuggets, the Rat Portage Thistles, and the Smiths Falls Hockey Club. A slogan postmark (Figure 26) was issued in May 1983 to be used on Ottawa processed mail concurrently with the ORAPEX National Stamp Show (May 7-8, 1983).

In 2016, for the first time, the National Women's Hockey League (founded 2015) awarded the Isobel Cup to its championship team (Figure 27). It was named after Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy (1875-1963), one of two daughters of Lord and Lady Stanley. She shared her family's love of ice hockey – all eight of her brothers played – and was instrumental in getting her father to donate the Stanley Cup. She is also one of the first recorded women to play ice hockey in 1889 at the Rideau Skating Rink, which opened that year.

III. An Individual Hockey Team: The Senators

A collector can easily put together a one-frame exhibit or a larger collection concentrating on material related to one specific hockey team. As one example, I will explore the

Ottawa Senators, but many other teams can provide enough philatelic or collateral material for a collection. The Ottawa Hockey Club team [as mentioned above and in Note 12] had a storied amateur and professional life until it was disbanded in 1954. In 1990, Ottawa was awarded an expansion franchise in the National Hockey League, becoming the second franchise in the NHL to use the name Ottawa Senators. They started playing in the 1992-93 season. The stamps in Figure 28, issued September 3, 2013, show the logo of the second iteration of the Ottawa Senators overlaid on a puck. Twenty-seven days later a second hockey teams' series was issued. The two similar stamps showed a Senators goaltender and a fan wearing the home and away jerseys. One was from a water-activated souvenir sheet (Scott 2669d) and the other from a self-adhesive booklet (Scott 2673).

To illustrate the older version of the Senators Hockey Club one can use the postcard in Figure 24, but also collectible chewing gum and cigarette cards. Alexander (Alec) "The Ottawa Fireman" Connell (1900-1958) played for the Senators from 1924 to 1933 with a one-year hiatus (1931-32 season). He is shown on a card issued for the 1933-34 hockey season by the Canadian Chewing Gum Sales Ltd. (Figure 29). Also, for the 1933-34 season the O-Pee-Chee Company, Ltd. issued a series of cards of National Hockey League Stars. Figure 30 shows Sydney Harris "Syd" Howe (1911-1976) on what is considered to be his "rookie" card. It exists in at least two colors: red and orange. He started his NHL career with the Ottawa Senators in 1929.

Imperial Tobacco issued three sets of cigarette cards from 1910 to 1912. The 1910-11 set is considered to be the first true set of hockey cards. It was given C56 as a series number by Jefferson Burdick's *American Card Catalog* many years after it was issued. There is conjecture that the series may have been issued for the 1909-1910 season, but most authorities agree on 1910-11. In the series of 36 cards, six showed Senators players [Note 13]. Figure 31 shows a portrait of Martin "Marty" Walsh (1884-1915), a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame who played on three Senators Stanley Cup winning teams: 1910-12. He was also on the Queen's University team that challenged for the 1906 Stanley Cup. He is seen sitting at the extreme lower right in Figure 25. Figure 32 from the 45-card series of 1911-12 represents Alexander "Alex" Currie (1891-1951). He played for the Senators for one year (1910-1911) and was their coach for the 1925-26 NHL season. A proof exists for this card that has a sharper print and is tinted slightly more orange. The proof has several



Figure 17. The Memorial Cup is considered to be one of the most difficult awards to win because there are 60 teams from nine Canadian provinces and four American states participating in a round-robin tournament for players between the ages of 16-21.



Figure 18. Enhance your collection with varieties when available, such as those illustrated here.

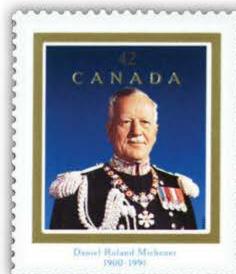


Figure 19. Roland Michener and Lester Pearson (of Figure 18) were personal friends, hockey mates and political foes.



Figure 20. Blotters are another excellent ephemera item for any multifaceted subject collection.

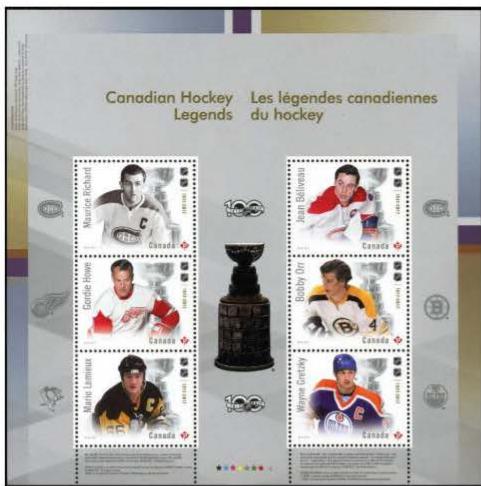


Figure 22. A souvenir sheet showing the Stanley Cup in 2017. Each ring is inscribed with the names of all the players and officials of the winning team. There are five rings in the Cup. The top one is removed when the bottom one is full and a new ring is added. The last change happened in September 2018.

differences from the issued card. The most striking is the lack of a period after the word "Alex," both on the front and back of the card.

IV. Leagues and International Competitions

The following is just a small flavor of material you might use to put together a collection showing the history of hockey leagues and of international hockey. Figure 33 shows one of three stamps issued in a Prestige booklet for the 75th anniversary of the National Hockey League founded in 1917. The National Hockey League's logos in English (NHL) and in French (LNH) are in the upper right corner of the stamp. In 1895, a Colored Hockey League (CHL) was created in Halifax, Nova Scotia, featuring only black players. The CHL was established by a Baptist pastor and three of his parishioners as a way to recruit black residents to the church. Over 400 players participated in as many as 12 teams during the CHL's existence (1895-1930) [Note 14]. The stamp in Figure 34, issued in 2020, celebrates the Halifax Eurekas' win of the 1906 CHL championship.

Women's hockey (Figure 35) hails back to 1891 when it was played at the University level in Ottawa. The first unofficial Women's World Championship was held in Toronto in 1987. The tournament was sanctioned by the International Ice Hockey Federation in 1990 and women's hockey was included in the Olympics in 1998 for the first time. Men's hockey was first introduced in the Olympics in 1920 during the Summer Games in Antwerp, Belgium, and were transferred to



Figure 22. Photograph, possibly by William Notman of Montreal, on card taken in the summer of 1888. It was used in the fall of the same year as a Carte de Visite by the tailoring and clothing firm of Hollis Shorey & Co. of Montreal. A companion 1889 Carte de Visite from the same firm bears a portrait of Lady Stanley.



Figure 23. The original 1892 Cup is preserved in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. Its collar and bowl are too fragile and brittle to be used. They were replaced in 1963 and 1969 respectively. Some teams inscribed their marks or names of their players inside the original bowl.

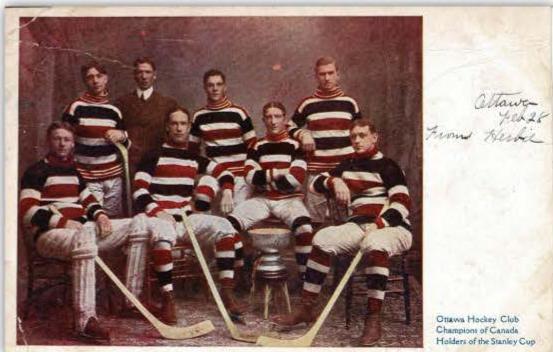


Figure 24. Post card of the Ottawa 1905 Stanley Cup winners posted to Rockport on February 28, 1906, NY. The card was produced and published by Matthew Easdale, 201 Queen Street, Ottawa.

the first Winter Olympics held in Chamonix, France, in 1924. Canada has participated in all 24 Olympic Tournaments, winning nine of them. Canada has also won four of the six women's titles.

Paraplegics and athletes with disabilities also play hockey. Figure 36, issued in 2009 for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, portrays an ice-sled hockey (sledge hockey or Para ice hockey) player. The stamp was available with water-activated gum from a souvenir sheet (Scott 2299e) and from a self-adhesive booklet (Scott 2301). Postal forgeries of the booklet are known to exist. The forged stamps have no phosphorescent tagging.

Between 1969 and 1972, negotiations were underway to put together a hockey series or "summit" pitting the Canadian NHL professional players and the Russians/Soviets, who dominated international hockey at the time. Most Canadians assumed that the series, held in 1972, would turn into a rout in favor of Canada. An eight-game exhibition series was held (four in each country) and it was not until the last few seconds of the eighth and last game (34 seconds left) that Paul Henderson scored the series-winning goal for Canada. No stamps were issued for the 1972 series at the time, but 25 years later, Canada Post issued a pair of se-tenant stamps showing Henderson celebrating his goal (Scott 1659) and the Canadian team celebrating the series win (Scott 1660). In addition to the stamps, Canada Post produced a Collectors Gift Set box which included a commemorative puck, a t-shirt, a poster, and an unfolded booklet pane of ten stamps (five pairs of se-tenants in a checkerboard pattern). Canada Post canceled the stamp pane in Figure 37 with what it considers an overprint.

V. Family History and Genealogy

I passionately believe that non-collectors can be brought into philately and its various collateral hobbies such as numismatics, deltiology, phaleristics, and other ephemera collectibles by having them build an interest in illustrated family history. Virtually all the material philatelists use to supplement their collections or for display/open class exhibits, the family historian can use. A subset of this is

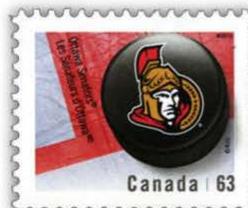


Figure 28. The storied Ottawa Senators reappeared in the National Hockey League on October 8, 1992, to play their first game since March 8, 1934. Twenty years later, two stamps of the same design but different formats were issued: a water-activated stamp from a souvenir sheet (Scott 2661g, left) and a self-adhesive coil stamp (Scott 2668, right).



Figure 25. In 1898, the Queen's University donated the Queen's Cup, shown on the front of the post card, for the annual competition in the Ontario Hockey Association. The card, published by McDermott Brothers of Kingston, ON, was mailed from Kingston April 9, 1906, to Toronto, ON.

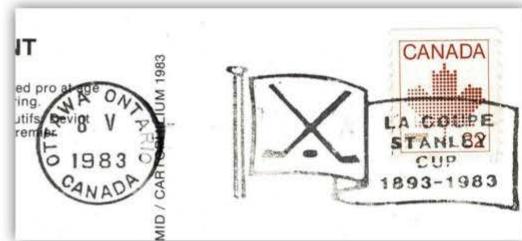


Figure 26. The ORAPEX machine slogan celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Stanley Cup was designed by Ralph D. Mitchener (1926-1995), a philatelic journalist and author, judge and exhibitor. He was the foremost Canadian proponent of hockey collecting.



Figure 27. The Isobel Cup was named after one of the two daughters of Lord and Lady Stanley, Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy – a hockey player herself. Courtesy of National Women's Hockey League.



Figure 29 and 30. Two cards produced for the 1933-34 season. Above, a card by Chewing Gum Sales Ltd. Right, a card by O-Pee-Chee Company, Ltd. O-Pee-Chee was a confectionery company founded in 1911 in London, Ontario. It started producing trading card sets in the 1930s and issued five hockey sets between 1934 and 1938. Since 1997 the O-Pee-Chee brand has been revived under licensors.

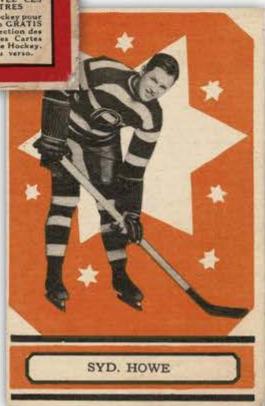


Figure 31. According to Stephen Laroche, a prominent sports card historian, this card does not exist. He bemoans its absence in the series, "Strangely, scoring star Marty Walsh was overlooked by the creator of this set as he scored a team-leading 19 goals for the Senators." (Sportscollectingdaily.com, August 2019).



Figure 32. American Card Catalog series number C55. There are ten cards showing Senators players (numbered 8 through 17). Five of the players in the first series returned in this series, with Gordon Roberts not included. In addition to Currie, four new players were added: John "Jack" Darragh (1890-1924), Albert "Dubbie" Kerr (1889-1941), John "Jack" Macdonald (1887-1958) and Hamilton "Hamby" Shore (1886-1918).

illustrating your family genealogy. For some, this is easier said than done. Having famous people in your family helps. If you have French Canadian blood, as more than half of my ancestors did, you are incredibly lucky, as virtually all baptismal, marriage and burial registers since the French Regime (mid-1660s) are still extant for Quebec and Acadia [Note 15]. In addition, they all have an enormous amount of detail including the maiden name of the wife or mother, making researching female family lines much easier. But how does this relate to hockey?

I am sure that many of you, with a little bit of research, would find some famous (or infamous) person – and they need not all be players – related to the sport in your family. I will use my own family genealogy to illustrate this. My parents were married in the church in Montebello, Quebec (Figure 38). My mother's maiden name was Lafleur (born in Fassett, Quebec), and her mother's maiden name was Richer. This made her a cousin to two famous Montreal Canadiens hockey players: Stéphane Richer (b. 1966 in Ripon, Quebec) and Guy Lafleur (b. 1947 in Thurso, Quebec) [Note 16]. Unfortunately, Richer has not been honored on Canadian stamps but I am sure there are ample other collectibles to portray him in a family study.

Lafleur, on the other hand, has been portrayed on Canadian stamps many times since he first appeared on the selvedge of a 1992 booklet pane celebrating the 75th anniversary of the NHL (Figure 39, Scott 1445a). Ten years later, in 2002, he was one of a series of six players shown on a sheetlet produced for that year's NHL All-Star game (Figure 40, Scott 1445a). Canada Post commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Canadiens in 2009. It issued four stamps for the occasion, including three CAD \$3 stamps in its first lenticular souvenir sheet. The three stamps portrayed a replay of the 500th goals of three Canadiens hockey players: Maurice Richard, Jean Béiveau and Guy Lafleur. Lafleur is on the lower stamp of the souvenir sheet (Figure 41, Scott 2340) and that stamp is on a home-made first day cover (Figure 42, Scott 2340c). His next – and so far, last – appearance on a Canadian stamp was in a series celebrating Great Canadian Forwards issued in 2016. One is a Permanent/Forever stamp (face value of CAD 85¢ at time of issue). It comes in both a water-activated souvenir sheet and a self-adhesive booklet (Figure 43, Scott 2941c). On the same day, six souvenir sheets on card were issued for the same six forwards. They were made to look like hockey cards and had a face value of CAD \$1.80 each. Additionally, the players autographed some of the souvenir sheets (Figure 44, Scott 2950i). These latter souvenir sheets could only be purchased in packages of six.

Conclusion

Hopefully, this article has given some of you an appetite for collecting hockey. However, my ideas above can be used to collect a myriad of different subjects, topics, or themes, not just hockey. I am grateful to Gary Wayne Loew and D. Robin

Harris, respectively the editors of *The American Philatelist* and *The Canadian Philatelist*, for giving me the opportunity to write this article, as it is one that I have pondered for years. Their idea for a jointly-themed issue of their magazines spurred me on. I leave you with a souvenir sheet that exemplifies the theme they chose, issued in 2017 jointly by Canada and the United States (Figure 45, Scott 3039).

Notes

Note 1. Creighton's ad in *Montreal Gazette* on March 3, 1875, reads: "A game of Hockey will be played at the Victoria Skating Rink this evening, between two nines chosen from among the members. Good fun may be expected, as some of the players are reputed to be exceedingly expert at the game... Subscribers will be admitted on presentation of their tickets."

Note 2. Sir John Franklin's game of hockey – the first recorded called as such – is described in historian Randy Boswell's "Why an Arctic hero may make us rewrite hockey history," *Ottawa Citizen*, May 3, 2003.

Note 3. A topical collection is one that encompasses stamps showing a topic and ordered by country or by subject. A thematic collection shows the collector's wider knowledge of their collection subject by including, in addition to stamps, philatelic material that tells the story of the sport or the chosen subject. A display collection is a thematic one with relevant ephemera included.

Note 4. Dickinson, Gary, *Collecting First Day Covers of Canada*, (British North America Philatelic Society, 2020) p. 64. As per Dickinson, "Charles W. George (1920-1978) was a well-known maker of FDC's for U. S. stamp issues and he also produced them for Canadian stamps between 1948 and 1969. They were signed in several different ways including C. W. George, C. George, C. G. Junior III and Bobby G." He obtained this information from an article by David L. Smetzer and Joe Vogel entitled "Charles W. George Cachets on Canadian First Day Covers" published in *First Days* 33, no. 5, pp. 626-635.

Note 5. Post Office posters were produced to be displayed in Post Offices to announce new stamps. They were printed in both English, French and bilingually. They can all be shown in an exhibit or the exhibitor can indicate that the other(s) exists. This provides additional research points in a competitive exhibition.

Note 6. An argument can be made that the items in Figure 15 and 16 could be used in a traditional exhibit by virtue of their producer. See Note 8.

Note 7. A technical note for those who wish to exhibit competitively. Condition is a pointed criterion. A relatively common cover like this one would lose a portion of the points because it is foxed and stained. Best to find a pristine example rather than exhibit this one.

Note 8. Primarily because it is a FDC and its contents but more importantly because the Canadian Bank Note Company produced, engraved, and printed the stamp.

Note 9. Simpkins was a staff artist in the film strip unit at the National Film Board of Canada when he designed the stamp. He is most famous for his cartoon: Jasper the Bear. Although I am not aware of the existence of a cartoon strip showing Jasper playing hockey, an original drawing of such a cartoon might be considered as collateral material in a hockey collection.

Note 10. Originally a challenge cup between several teams, the rules of its award changed over the years. In 1926 it *de facto* became the championship trophy of the National Hockey League and *de jure* in 1947.

Note 11. Because of the challenge format and the distances to travel, the 1905-06 Stanley Cup season lasted from January 13, 1905 to March 8, 1906.

Note 12. The Ottawa Hockey Club (1883-1954) was known by several nicknames including the Generals in the 1890s, the Silver Seven from 1903 to 1907 and the Senators from 1908. It was founding member of the National Hockey League (NHL) and played in the league from 1917 to 1934. It held the Stanley Cup championship from 1903 to 1906 during the challenge years and in 1920, 1921, 1923 and 1927 during the NHL years. The Queen's University team first played organized hockey in



Figure 33. The stamp shows the National Hockey League's logos, hockey equipment from the 1917-1947 era and an artist's rendition of Charles Albert "Babe" Siebert (1904-1939) in his Montreal Maroons 1926 uniform. 1926 is the year they won the Stanley Cup.



Figure 34. The Colored Hockey League self-adhesive stamp was issued in booklets of 10 stamps in four color lithography by Lowe-Martin, a Canadian Security printer.



Figure 35. Issued with three other stamps to celebrate the 2002 Olympic Winter Games held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Olympic symbols appear when the stamps are looked at from an angle.



Figure 36. Ice-sled hockey originated in Sweden in the 1960s and spread to Canada in 1982 and the United States in 1990. It first appeared at the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Sweden, in 1994.



Figure 37. Collectors' views vary on the cancel on this item. Is it a precancel, a first day cover cancel or an overprint? However, all agree that it was a printed cancel and not hammer stamped.



Figure 38. A real-photo post card (c1940) that can be used in a family history collection. The photo was taken by Bernard J. Bogue (1909-1978) of Hawkesbury, ON. Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours church was built in 1895, the attached rectory was built in 1937 and both are, together, a Quebec heritage site.



Figure 39. From the same Prestige booklet as that of Figure 33, this cropped pane covers the 1967-1992 era and shows Guy Lafleur in the upper right hockey card.



Figure 40. At the time this stamp was issued, it was not Canada Post's policy to issue stamps for living people. Canada Post got around this for its 2000-2005 36-stamp series by calling it the NHL All Stars series. The names of the players and another image of them are found on a tab attached to the issued stamp.

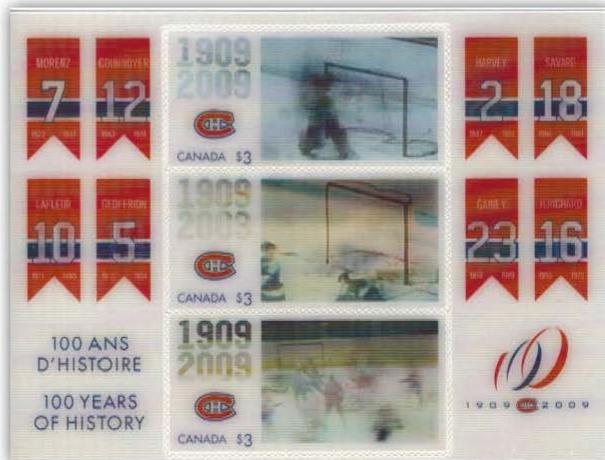


Figure 41. Canada's first lenticular stamps using Motionstamp technology, giving the feeling of motion. Soaking these stamps in water may result in the stamp layering and loss of the cancel. This is Canada's first \$3 stamp since 1897 (Scott 63).

the Winter of 1883-4, making it the second oldest university team in the world. It challenged for the Stanley Cup in 1895, 1899 and 1905-6.

Note 13. They were Fred Lake, Percy Le Stue, Bruce Ridpath, Gordon Roberts, Bruce Stuart, and Martin "Marty" Walsh.

Note 14. At the CHL's zenith eight teams participated. They were the Jubiles, Stanleys, Eurekas, Sea-Sides, Victorias, Royals and Moss Backs, all from Nova Scotia, and the Rangers from Prince Edward Island.

Note 15. Most of the registers from Quebec from the French Regime until about the 1930s were micro-filmed in the 1940-50s, which I access via Ancestry.ca (Ancestry.com).

Note 16. Fassett, Ripon, and Thurso are in close geographical proximity in Quebec on the north side of the Ottawa River in an area where the Lafleurs and Richers have lived since early in the 19th century.

Hockey Resources

National Hockey League. *Total Hockey: The Official Encyclopedia of the National Hockey League*. (1998, 2000)

National Hockey League. *Total Stanley Cup: An Official Publication of the National Hockey League 2000 edition*.

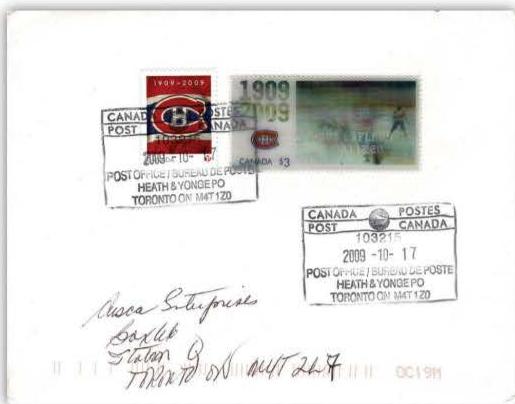


Figure 42. A first day cover bearing the two stamps issued on October 17, 2009, to celebrate the Montreal Canadiens Centennial. The lenticular stamp shows Lafleur scoring his 500th goal. The permanent stamp shows a portion of the Canadiens jersey.

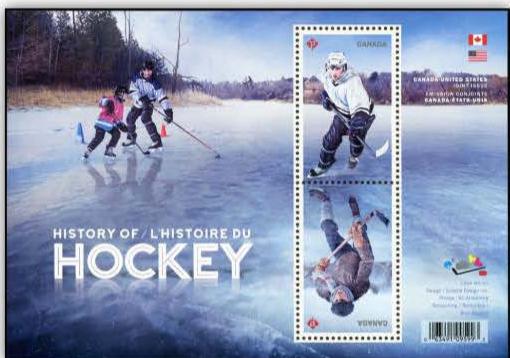


Figure 45. The Canada souvenir sheet from the joint US/Canada issue in 2017.



Figure 43. The booklet stamp has a serpentine perforation of 13.3 x 13.5.



Figure 44. A circular hologram Canada Post sticker in the upper left of the souvenir sheets provides authenticity for the autograph.

The Author

Historian, author, collector, exhibitor, judge, world traveler and full-time caregiver. Retired civil servant, former President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and the Eire Philatelic Association and former member of the Canadian Stamp Advisory Committee. Currently lead trainer for the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie's Jury Academy and Vice Chairman, Historian and Archivist for the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. Member of the Executive of CANADA 92, CAPEX 97 and CAPEX 22. Member, Secretary and Jury Vice-President at more than 25 international and world shows and will be President of the Jury at CAPEX 22. Author of four books and over 500 articles in the philatelic and non-philatelic press. His most important work is *The 1959 St. Lawrence Seaway Joint Issue and Its Invert* (2009). Elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2020.

FOR FURTHER READING

Recommendations from the APRL research staff:



A Collection of Stamps and Stationery Issued for the 1980 Olympic Games (Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1979). [G3701 .C734 U586co]

Depover, Raymond. *Les Jeux Olympiques, Squaw - Valley - Rome 1960 Classement Chronologique: Des Timbres, Des Oblitérations, Des Variétés* (Bruxelles Belgique: Editions Echo Philatélique, 1961). [HE6183 .O53 D422] 1961

Laimins, Peter. *Philatelic Catalog of Ice Hockey*. ([S.I.]: Lai-lac Press, 1995). [HE6183 .I15 L186p 1995]

Laimins, Peter; Lakco, Joseph; Wyslotsky, O.W. *Philatelic Handbook of Ice Hockey* (East Orange, NJ: Sports Philatelists International, 1976). [HE6183 .I15 W994p]

Hoobing, Robert. *The 1984 Olympics, Sarajevo and Los Angeles* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Postal Service, 1984). [HE6183 .O53 H776n]

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