

Draft article summarizing a PSSC presentation made at ORAPEX – May 4th, 2025 by Gilles Morel (PSSC #382)

Title: **Canada Post autographed hockey souvenir sheets of 2014-2017 and stamps-cards of 2000-2005**

Part 1

Canada Post has issued numerous stamps celebrating Hockey, considered by many as Canada's National sport, dating back to 1955. The timing of RPSC FILEX25 and the ORAPEX2025 coincides with the start of the “real” hockey season (the NHL Playoffs), and the enthusiasm of Hockey fans across the country, as 5 of our Canadian teams are participating. This was an opportunity, for a hockey fan/philatelist to explore in more details a seldom addressed aspect of Canada Hockey stamps: the special stamps and stamp-cards that include official/authorized signatures of our Hockey heroes.

Note: Given the type of material covered, and its highly visual aspect, I choose a “show and tell” format, that appeared more appropriate to present the collection, and promote discussion, Q & A from the audience.

In 2014, Canada Post announced a new series of hockey stamps in collaboration with the NHL and Upper Deck®. The series consists of six large-format souvenir sheets, each featuring one stamp of NHL star defensemen, from the Original six teams.

The High value stamp (2.50\$ - International rate), and its large format (2,6 x 3,9 cm) was not very convenient for regular size envelopes nor domestic use.



Printed by Lowe-Martin on TRC paper with GT4 marking and a serpentine cut of 13.5 x 13.3.

The back of each card includes highlights from the star player's career, individual statistics, and a list of NHL trophies won.

The stamp-cards were not included in the annual albums or the 2014 quarterly packs

The 2014 souvenir-sheets (125,000 of each stamp) were available in packs of 6 and in boxes of 10 packs (60 Souvenir-Sheets), serving as a display for customers. These were generally offered for sale at CP Retail outlets, in limited quantities



2015 *The great goaltenders*

Face value 1.80\$ (USA rate)

The production quantity for the souvenir sheet was 100,000 each for:

Ken Dryden, Tony Esposito, Johny Bower, Gump Worsley, Bernie Parent and Martin Brodeur

This was the first year these SS were included in the Quarterly packs (Oct-Dec. 2015)

2016 *The great Canadian forwards*

Face value 1.80\$ (USA rate)

The production quantity for the souvenir sheet was reduced to 100,000 each of:

Sidney Crosby, Phil Esposito, Guy Lafleur, Steve Yzerman, Mark Messier, Darryl Sittler

The SS were included in the Quarterly packs (July-Sep. 2016)



2017 *The legends and the Stanley cup*

Face value 1.80\$ (USA rate)

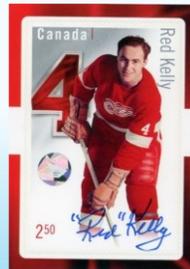
The production quantity for the souvenir sheet was 100,000 each of:

Maurice Richard, Jean Béliveau, Gordie Howe, Bobby Orr, Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux

The Autographed souvenir-sheets.

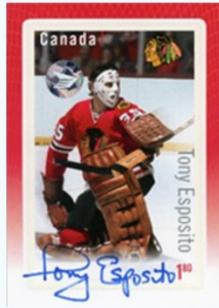
As part of a special promotion, Canada Post offered a limited quantity of the souvenir-sheets individually signed by the portrayed hockey players. As indicated on the back of each package, the odds of finding a specially autographed SS were established at 1 in 40 packs (of 6). For authentication, a special hologram showing the Canada Post logo was applied on the front of each autographed SS. In order to provide a good view of each of those special cards, a display of original cards was presented during the FILEX and ORAPEX conferences, and is included here, including the actual quantities of each SS.

The "Original" - Great Defensemen (2014)



Issued quantity: 500 each Orr: 1000

The Great Goaltenders (2015)



Issued quantity: 500 each (Esposito: 400, Brodeur: 100)

The Great Forwards (2016)

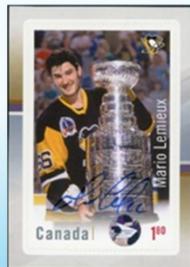


Issued quantity: 500 each (Esposito: 400, Crosby: 100)

The Great Forward (2016)



The Stanley cup (2017)



Quantity issued : 500

(Orr: 2000)

Part II Canada Post autographed hockey stamp-cards of 2000-2005

“An All-Star new year”

In 2003, Canada Post announced a new series of hockey stamps cards in collaboration with the NHL, and Pacific Trading card, an expansion of its existing plastic laminated hockey cards (2000 to 2002)

The new cards featured all 24 players from Canada Post's four-year series.

Stamp cards were specially sized to match other hockey collectible cards.

The cards are fin-sealed wrapped in random-insert formed into pre-printed metallic wrappers, with 6 to a pack.

The announcement also highlights that a total of 100 cards, autographed by Jean Beliveau, Guy Lafleur, Bobby Hull and Glen Hall have been randomly inserted into packs



2000 – 2005 Production estimate

2000 to 2003

60,000 packs* produced, 24 diff cards

15,000 of each stamp card

*Autographed: 100 (25 each of Beliveau, Lafleur, Hull and Hall) with odds of 1:600 packs=>60,000 packs

2004

300 Autographed of each of 6 players of the 49c

Odds of 1:10 packs (or 1 per 60 stamp cards)

90,000 of each card

2005

Odds same as 2004 but # of autographed card and production unknown

Display of Autographed stamp cards (Seen or acquired as of May 1 2025)

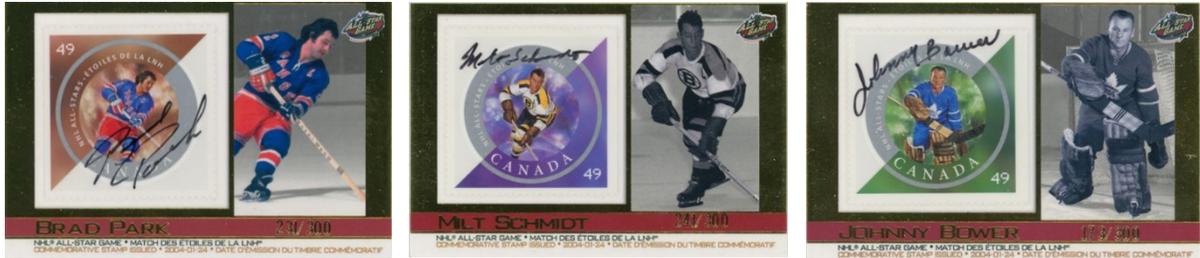
2000 to 2003 (none)

2004 (49c series) – Autographed contain unique number printed directly on the cards (x/300)

Brad Park (231/300)

Johnny Bower (173/300)

Milt Schmidt (241/300)



2005 (50c series) – Autographed not numbered on the card. Authentication by visual examination that the signature is applied on the stamp inserted under the plastic seal of the card

John Bucyk

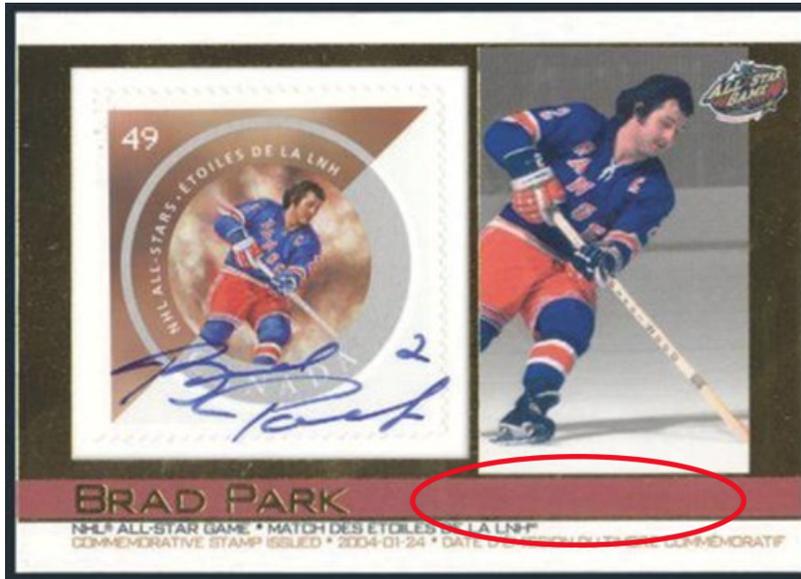
Allan Stanley

Pierre Pilote



Caution: Given the rarity of the autographed cards, regular cards are occasionally signed by player at shows, via courtesy signature, and offered by collectible/auction houses. Those are considered “aftermarket” and not genuine Canada Post issued stamp cards.

Here are 2 examples of recent offerings of Brad Park and Henry Richard (*aftermarket signature*)



Note: no numbering on the right of player name



Signature extends outside of the Stamp frame at lower left

In closing, I would welcome scans, pictures, actual copies of stamp-cards of the 2000-2005 all-star series, in order to complete the inventory and library display, as well as examples of the 2014-2017 souvenir sheets used in period (if any exist?).