

My 2025 Philatelic Journey

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In 2025, I wanted to increase my participation in various forums, study groups, and some of my main philatelic interests. While my plans did not include exhibiting, I wanted to share some of the material I had started to collect on three specific topics.

The year started with a presentation at the January 29 AQEP (Académie québécoise d'études philatéliques) meeting on mail recovery from the *Empress of Ireland*. The presentation was a French adaptation of my earlier PSSC presentation in 2024.

In the spring, suffering from hockey fever, it became obvious that the time was right for a Canadian hockey theme. I submitted an article on the lesser-known Canada Post All-Stars sponsorship of 2005 for publication in the March-April issue of *Corgi Times*. The article included two special autographed stamp cards from the 50¢ 2005 set and three autographed stamp cards from the 49¢ 2004 set. I spent the rest of 2025 searching for the elusive missing cards from the 2005 set, and my efforts were rewarded just before Christmas when I acquired the missing ones. Figure 1 shows a complete autographed set of the 2005 All-Stars.



Figure 1. Autographed set of 2005 All-Stars; clockwise from top left: Allan Stanley, John Bucyk, Pierre Pilote, Bryan Trottier, Grant Fuhr, Henri Richard.

In April, at FILEX 2025, on behalf of the BNAPS Lower-Canada Study Group, I showcased one of my collection's highlights: the autographed souvenir sheets issued by Canada Post from 2014 until 2017 (Figure 2). This presentation demonstrated the inter-connection between philately and Canadian sports heritage. Part of this presentation was delivered at the PSSC meeting at ORAPEX 2025 in Ottawa.



Figure 2. Autographed souvenir sheets; left to right: Guy Lafleur, Sidney Crosby, Martin Brodeur.

Another prime philatelic interest is Canada's first decimal issue of 1859-68, the Cartier 17¢ stamp. It was the subject of a BNAPS Pence and Cents study group lecture on May 4 at ORAPEX. I introduced a series of 17 newly identified plate flaws with high-resolution images. The identification was made possible by recent technological advancements and the availability of high-resolution plate proof scans from Library and Archives Canada, auction houses and fellow collectors.

On this occasion, I launched the first version of a new website dedicated to the Cartier 17¢ stamp. The design and conception of the site were led by W.G. (Bill) Burden, and it provides high-resolution scans of all 100 plate positions from my plate reconstruction, including comments and descriptions from key reference sources (Whitworth, Kershaw, Verge, Calder) supplemented by my recent comments (Figure 3). This website (www.Cartier17cent.com) is bilingual. On December 6, the site was awarded a Gold medal at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, concluding a successful 2025 journey in philately.

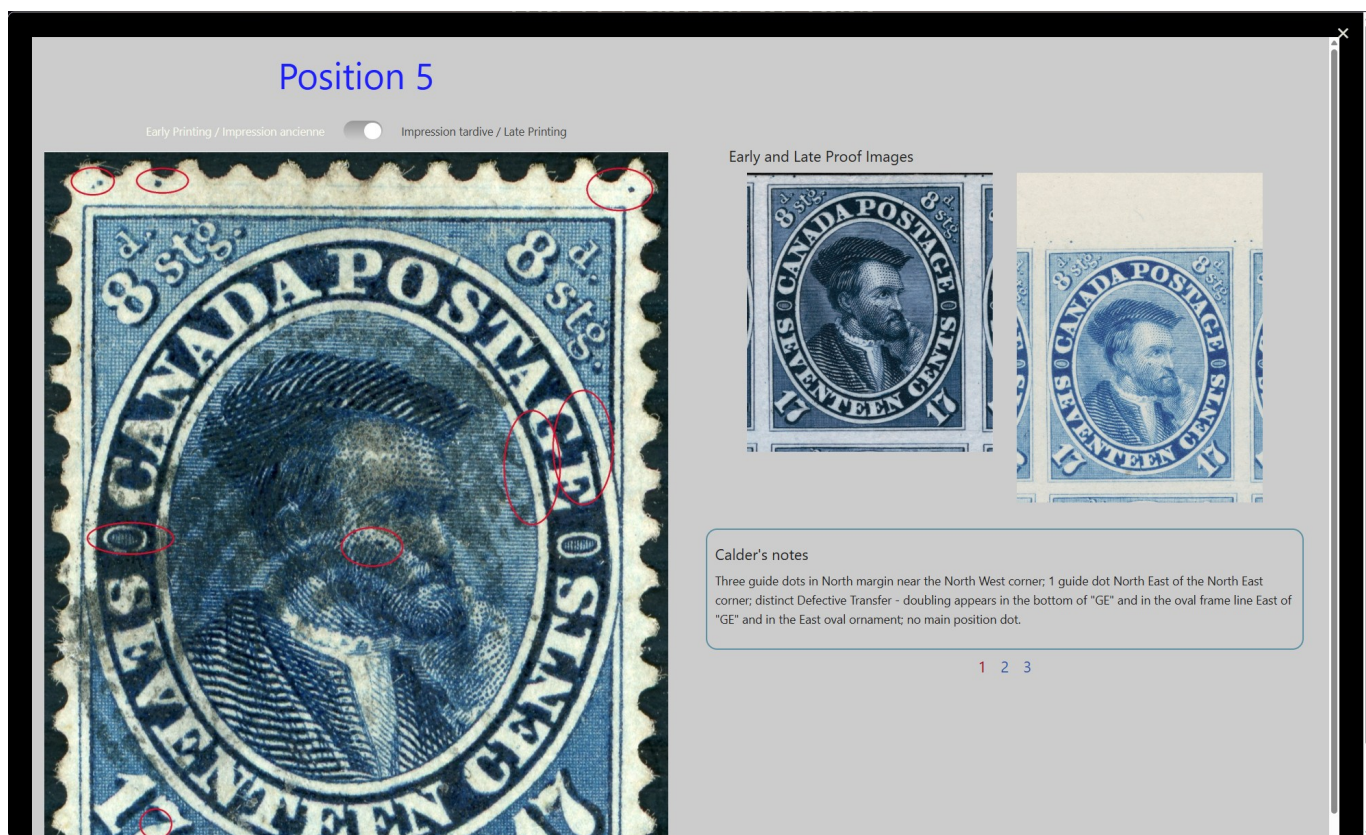


Figure 3. Screenshot from www.cartier17cent.com.

Despite the above activities, my biggest regret is missing the BNAPEX fall convention in Vernon, BC. My wife and I had planned to attend and extend our stay to visit the interior of BC, but an unexpected health issue forced us to cancel at the last minute.

Looking towards 2026, my interests are expanded to include early ship mail into Quebec, postal history along the Gaspé Peninsula, and familiarization with AI for philately.

In closing, I am especially pleased with the ongoing and expanded venues made available via Zoom sessions, whether by local clubs, national organizations or study groups, that keep philatelists well connected throughout the year. We should all be thankful to those who volunteer their time and expertise for the success of Canadian (and BNA) philately.