

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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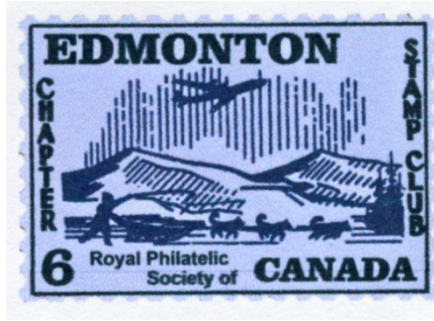
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



Regular meetings

St. Joseph High School Cafeteria, 10830 - 109 Street,
6:00 pm

Check Page 20 for meeting dates



The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society. **The editor welcomes communications of all kinds – letters, comments, and articles.**

These may be forwarded to John-

Paul Himka, Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6, or click “contact” on our website (edmontonstampclub.ca) or email to jhimka@ualberta.ca.

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Area code 780 (unless otherwise noted)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There've been some very informative presentations at our meetings since we've returned to St. Joseph's in September. If you're interested in giving a talk, Keith Spencer is booking March already. We have such a wide variety of collecting interests that you're guaranteed to learn something new. Education is a key pillar of our club.

I've talked to some of the other stamp clubs across Canada. They, like us, have seen some new or returning members at meetings. We've seen lots of upward bidding, and sellers seem to be bringing more lots in for disposal. If you have parts of your collection to sell, please consider entering those in the members' or silent auction.

Christmas season is upon us. So is the Canada Post strike.

Wishing a merry Christmas and good hunting in your stamp collecting interests in 2025.

David V. Pattison

The President of today is just the postage stamp of tomorrow.
—Gracie Allen



A nice cancel from Fort William, Ontario. Now known, along with Port Arthur, as Thunder Bay, Ontario.

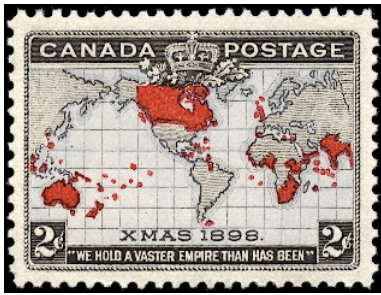
-- Jeff Pacey

The First Christmas Stamp

Tim Graff
tbgraff(at)gmail.com

Each year Canada and many other countries issue stamps commemorating the season of Christmas. Colnect has over 39,000 stamps tagged under this theme (924 for Canada alone), a challenge for even the most avid thematic collector.

I don't share this popular collecting passion, but it did spark the question, "Who issued the first Christmas stamp?" I was surprised to discover that it was Canada.



It was on 7 December 1898 that Canada produced a two-cent stamp under the Imperial Penny Postage Issue. It had a crown centered at the top, under which was a large Mercator map of the British Empire in 1898 with the words "XMAS

1898" printed below the map, as well as the phrase, "WE HOLD A VASTER EMPIRE THAN HAS BEEN." This phrase comes from the ode, *A Song of Empire*, composed for the jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria in 1897.

Scott lists two varieties identified as #85 and #86. Unitrade further expands on the color variations (lavender, grey, blue, and deep blue).

At a more general level, the stamp became widely known as the "map stamp," but among those opposed to the political agenda behind this stamp it became known as the "has-been stamp."

Now, one might argue that this stamp should not be considered under the theme of Christmas since it had a more primary focus, that being to promote a unified postal rate and common postal system across the British empire. The words "XMAS 1898" appear secondary to this political agenda. In fact, even though adding these words may have been an attempt to acknowledge the

birthday of Jesus, others suggest that these words were only there to appease those who opposed a common postal rate and system.

Michael O. Nowlan, in an article entitled “How the First Christmas Stamp Came To Be” (14 July 1999), notes another theory on this addition of the words “XMAS 1898.” He says that MP William Mulock, the political force behind this stamp, suggested issuing it earlier in November to honor the prince, meaning the Prince of Wales. However, when questioned by Queen Victoria about what prince was being referred to, Mulock recognized the danger of his suggestion and quickly answered, “Why, madam, the Prince of Peace.”

What truly fascinated me about this stamp was the use of the word “XMAS” instead of “Christmas.” In our current secular Canadian culture, the use of “Xmas” has been thought to be a way of de-Christianizing the season. As Christians like to say, “Taking the Christ out of Christmas.” However, I wondered whether this was the intent back in 1898.

I’m not sure we’ll ever know, but “X” can also represent the Greek letter *Chi*, which is the first letter in the Greek word *Christos*, translated as “Christ” in English. This abbreviation apparently has a long history in the church, going back to 1100 AD. So, perhaps in this case, XMAS was just a way to shorten the word “Christmas.” Like I said, we will probably never know.

In conclusion, one wonders whether the controversy around this “Christmas” stamp prevented the issuing of further Christmas stamps, since another one would not be forthcoming in Canada until 14 October 1964.

To read a far more in-depth article on this stamp please check out the blog “Canadian Philately”

(<https://canadianphilately.blogspot.com/2015/09/the-1898-imperial-penny-postage-issue.html>).



Organizing a Philatelic Collection Part 2 – Variants, Novelties, and EFO's

Tony Doughty
(brave enough to abjure email)

Up to and including the Centennial era of philately, all Canadian stamps were produced using engraved printing plates. On 15 September 1967 Canada Post introduced the George Vanier stamp – the first Canadian stamp to be produced by Canadian Bank Note Company using both engraving and lithography. Then on 1 November 1968, the Wildlife – Grey Jays stamp printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company was the first stamp printed entirely by the lithographic printing process.

A combination of engraving and photogravure was used for the first time by BABNC on the 1668 Voyage of the Nonsuch stamp. Then on 1 November 1968 CBNC produced the first Canadian stamp printed using the photogravure technique – the Inuit Soapstone Carving issues.

Although a variety of combinations of printing processes have been exploited, and continue to be used in the production of postage stamps, the vast majority of Canadian stamps produced since 1979 have been printed using the lithographic technology.


It is interesting to observe that on the engraved stamps the vast majority of EFOs consist of engraver's slips. The introduction of lithographic printing has produced a plethora of dots, spots, pimples, scratches, bullet holes, or other EFOs, etc., that show up infrequently in a stamp's production run.

The Unitrade catalogue recognizes two categories of EFOs: those that occur on every stamp pane produced, which it designates as "ep" in the listings, and those that occur inconsistently or accidentally on one or more panes – these listing do not include the "ep" designation.

To accommodate displaying EFOs in my collection, I devised the stamp page shown in Figure 1. This consists of two tables; the upper table is shown enlarged in Figure 2.

In Figure 2, the left cell consists of a slightly enlarged scan of the error stamp with the position of the error indicated. The central cell shown a grossly enlarged scan of the actual error for identification purposes. The rightmost cell shown a normal stamp for comparison. Note that this “Frisbee” error stamp is not an “ep”

Canadian Varieties

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|
| Date of Issue _____ | Perforations _____ | Tagging _____ | Catalogue _____ |
| Printer _____ | Configuration _____ | | Factor _____ |
| Quebec Carnival Varieties | | | |
| Frisbee Variety | | | |
| Frisbee Variety |  | | Normal For Comparison |





| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|  Canada 14 |  Canada 14 |  Canada 14 |  Canada 14 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Figure 1

stamp, but the “Frisbee” is clearly visible above the left hand of Bonhomme de neige. See Figure 2.

The lower table in figure 1 allows me to accumulate additional example of the same error stamp I acquire from kiloware. As you can see I have four copies of this EFO indicating it is not a freak occurrence.

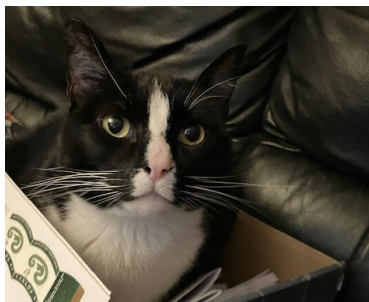
For all non “ep” EFO’s – those numerous fly-spec, dots, spots, doughnuts, and other blemishes, I set up a single table page similar to that shown in Figure 3.

After installing a blemished stamp on this page I indicate the position of the blemish, together with a one- or two-word description – such as “scratch,” “yellow doughnut,” etc. underneath the stamp.

As an aside I should mention that the stamps shown in Figure 3 must represent the dirtiest lithographed stamps ever produced. I have over 325 stamps (on thirteen such pages) displaying blemishes throughout the stamps, although I limit these to blemishes that can be clearly seen with the unaided eye.



Figure 2



Canadian Varieties

Catalogue _____

Perforations 12.5 x 13.5 (x4) Tagging GT2

Catalogue 973

Factor _____

Configuration Pair of 52 CBNCL

Factor _____

Paper FD - No Fluorescence

Christmas 1982 – Inconsistent Varieties



Note: Location of each individual error is indicated on picture underneath stamp

Figure 3

SS Caribou – The Story behind the Stamp

Judy Madden
headachesolvers(at)gmail.com

Many may view this stamp as one of those irritating stamps that was issued multiple times and for which we've had to determine which stamp or stamps we have and where do they fit in our albums.

Newfoundland issued three 2-cent red SS Caribou stamps, in 1928, 1929, and 1931. (Scott numbers NW 146, NW 164, and NW 173)

However, this article does not go down the technical path of philately. This article goes to the reason I collect stamps. An acquaintance of mine told me that when he got started collecting his Dad would bring stamps home from work, and he would look the countries up in an encyclopedia and learn about them. Now, thanks to the Internet, we no longer need to keep a set of encyclopedias at home, nor to beetle down to the library when we want to learn the stories behind the stamps.

The Caribou was a freight and passenger ferry that made three weekly crossings between Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, and North Sydney, Nova Scotia between 1928 and 1942. It was a very well fitted out ship with many comforts. The crew had many brothers, and fathers, and sons. The captain for the last fourteen of those years "boasted that, in 17 years, S.S. Caribou had not missed one of her three weekly crossings."¹ The more interesting part of the story of the Caribou comes well after the stamp was last issued.



¹ <https://www.communitystories.ca/v2/tragic-sinking-ss-caribou-naufage-tragique/story/s-s-caribou-and-her-gallant-crew/>.

In 1942, while escorted by a minesweeper, the HMCS Grandmere, it was torpedoed by U-96, a German submarine, in the middle of the night. It sank in six minutes. The Grandmere made every effort to find and sink the U-boat, but was unsuccessful. As soon as the captain believed it was safe to do so, the Grandmere went back to collect the survivors of the Caribou. Of the 46 crew members and 191 civilian and military passengers, only 15 crew members and 85 passengers survived.² Those that survived included a bride on her honeymoon, one of the 11 children on board, and a nursing sister for whom HMCS Margaret Brookes has been named. The captain and both of his sons perished.

Although the press often sensationalized the sinking as a war crime, it was not. The Caribou did carry military personnel and cargo that was destined for the war effort

There is a lot that can be learned from stamps, especially stamps that are relevant to the country they come from as opposed to stamps that are issued because someone somewhere collects something on that topic and there is money to be made by selling them. This is not to say that I don't purchase any topical stamps that don't have anything to do with the country they come from, but, even then, I do prefer it if the topical stamps are relevant to that country.

St. Anthony, Guide My Letter

Ed Dykstra
eddykstra(at)shaw.ca

I came across this label with the initials "S.A.G." and a picture showing a saint holding the Holy Child Jesus. The saint is St. Anthony of Padua. Born in Lisbon, Portugal, he is the patron saint for finding lost or stolen articles. He was a Franciscan friar, the most celebrated of St Francis of Assisi's followers. Sailors and fishermen claim him as their saint as well. So, to aid the arrival of the letter shown here, a label was affixed that has the initials S.A.G., which stand for "Saint Anthony Guide," i.e., a request to the saint to guide my letter along its way. The pictorial part displays a symbol of his credentials as a great preacher – a Bible bearing the image of Jesus. St Anthony had a

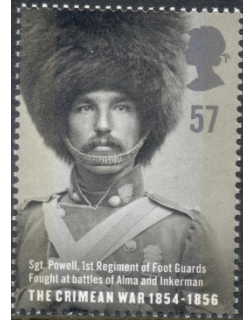
vision of Jesus as a child. Several different labels have been printed, with all of them showing basically the same theme and the same S.A.G initials. Portugal naturally printed a set of stamps for him in 1895, the 700th year of his birth. A long expensive set. What a Christmas giftee this would be! They also printed a set of stamps for the 700th year of his death, a more affordable set, and a very nice engraved set as well! Check out the Scott Catalogue for these. Happy stamping and have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!



Crimean War Postal History

Mark Boyce

[boyce\(at\)ualberta.ca](mailto:boyce(at)ualberta.ca)



The Crimean War of 1854 to 1856 is a rich collecting topic featuring uses of several of Britain's earliest postage stamps and a wealth of historical and philatelic covers. Each of the three embossed issues of Great Britain were used on Crimean War correspondence including the 6d, 10d, and 1/- (Scott 4-6). I believe that the most common British stamp on Crimean War correspondence was the 1d small crown, perf 16. France began issuing postage stamps in 1849, thus surely French Crimean War covers exist; but I have not found one. Russia first issued stamps in 1857, after the war. The Ottoman empire did not issue postage stamps in period.

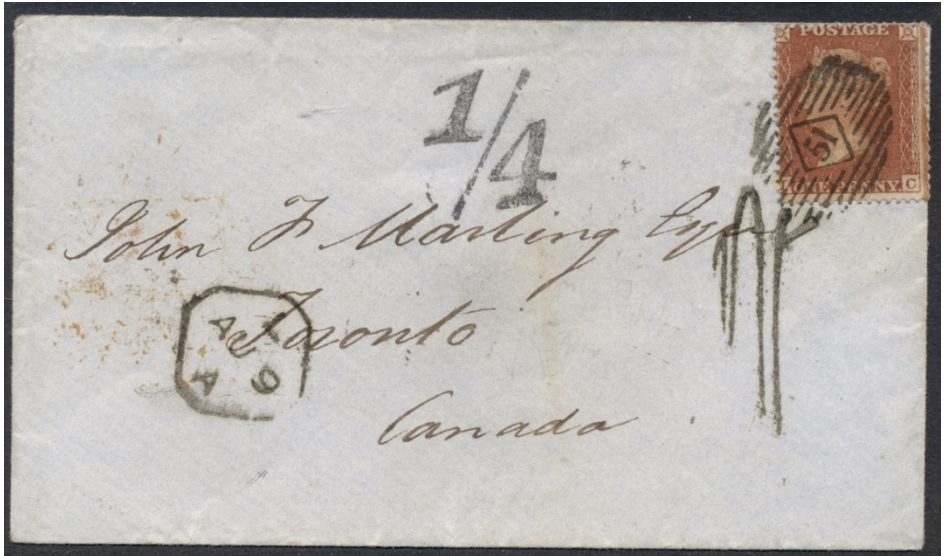
The Crimean War is arguably the most significant event of the nineteenth century that propelled Britain to "rule the waves" and reinforced worldwide colonialism well into the twentieth century. The Crimean War continued the deterioration of the Ottoman empire, with several countries fragmenting from the original expansive empire. Russia suffered great losses in the Crimean War that eroded the influence of the tsar. Despite horrific casualties by Britain and especially France during the war, both countries emerged as great world powers.

Russian aggression in the weakening Ottoman empire attracted the attention of Britain and France, reaching a pinnacle with the 30 November 1853 relentless destruction of the Ottoman fleet by Russia at Sinope (currently Sinop, Turkey) on the southern Black Sea. The Russian intention was to capture Constantinople (named Istanbul in 1930), which Britain and France feared would give Russia control over trade in the Black Sea and mouth of the Danube. This threatened British colonialism in India and other theaters that conflicted with Russia's imperial expansion. Great Britain and France declared war on Russia on 28 March 1854, allied with the Ottomans.

The war with Russia included many battles in Crimea but also in the Baltic and Kamchatka. France and Britain destroyed a Russian fortress at Bomarsund in Åland and then pushed their advances to Kronstadt, close to Saint Petersburg. Sardinia joined the Allies in Crimea, and Austria threatened to do so as well. The Russian fleet based in Sevastopol on the Crimean peninsula became the primary target of French and British forces. Ultimately, after many bloody battles, the Allied forces prevailed, leading to the Treaty of Paris on 30 March 1856 that ended the war.

All British ships were conscripted to the war; thus most mail coming to Canada was carried by American shipping lines. Illustrated here is a wartime cover from London to Toronto that sailed on the SS Pacific, a side-wheeled steamship owned by the Collins Line, from Liverpool to New York and then was directed to Canada. The Crimean War rate to Canada, 1/- (sterling) and a 1d stamp for posting after 6 pm. The $\frac{1}{4}$ mark is Canadian accountancy, $\frac{1}{4}$ Currency (= 16 pence BNA Currency) mark for an unpaid letter (weight up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) from the UK via the US by a packet ship. The stamp was the very first officially perforated issue of February 1854, 1d red-brown, Die I, Alphabet II with check letters IC, blued paper, perforated 16, small crown watermark, SG17, SG Specialized C1(1); Scott #8. The letter was posted at Lambert Street in London on 8 August 1855 and was cancelled with hammer 51 by Inland Office; it arrived in Liverpool on 9 August. The cover then left Liverpool on 11 August 1855 and arrived in New York on 20 August 1855, i.e., it took nine days to cross the Atlantic.

The Crimean War was revolutionary in many ways, including the first battles at sea with steamships, and the last war in which sailing ships served as battleships. The invention of the telegraph gave rapid communication with Western Europe, afforded by telegraph lines at Constantinople and on the western shores of the Black Sea by 1854. Also, photographers, notably Richard Fenton, sent startling images of the war to the press. And *The Times* of London sent a correspondent, William Howard Russell, to cover the war, ultimately contributing to political pressure on government engagement in the war. In particular, Russell's reports motivated Alfred, Lord Tennyson to pen the *Charge of the Light Brigade* that



1d Red-Brown, p 16, small crown wmk, SG17

infuriated the British public and turned many politicians against the war. Also, important advances in nursing and treatment of wounded soldiers immortalized the nursing administrator Florence Nightingale, based at a hospital on the outskirts of Constantinople.

The aftermath of the war proved especially substantive for the Russians, leading to the abolishment of serfdom and increased modernization, including developing railroads and industry. The Crimean War had devastating consequences for the Russian economy, contributing to the sale of Alaska to the United States in 1867 for \$7.2 million. Tsar of Russia Alexander II (The Liberator) became emperor during the Crimean War after the death of Nicholas I on 2 March 1855; he was assassinated in Saint Petersburg on 13 March 1881.

The Victoria Cross for valor was first awarded to a Canadian after the Crimean War, to the celebrated war hero Lt. Alexander Dunn in Hyde Park, London on 26 June 1857. Dunn was born in what is now Toronto and educated at Upper Canada College and at Harrow, England. In 1853, he was commissioned Lieutenant in the 11th Hussars. A participant in the Charge of the Light Brigade at

Balaclava on 25 October 1854, he saved the lives of two of his regiment by cutting down their Russian attackers, and thus became Canada's first winner of the newly created Victoria Cross. He was the only officer to receive the Victoria Cross for action at the Charge of the Light Brigade.

The Welsford-Parker Monument, also known as the Sevastopol Monument, in the Old Burying Ground, Halifax, was unveiled in 1860. It is the second oldest war monument in Canada and the only monument to the Crimean War (1854-56) in North America. It commemorates two Nova Scotians who died during the Siege of Sevastopol.



Canada #2065 & 2066 (2004)



Lieutenant Alexander
Roberts Dunn

[Editor's note: This was the subject of Mark's presentation at the Edmonton Stamp Club meeting on 2 December.]

Coming Up

The next presentation at the stamp club will be delivered by Richard Barnes at our 6 January 2025 meeting. The topic is intriguing: bullion, metal stamps, Jerry Parker, and K. Bileski.

Announcement

You may no longer want a printed copy of the *Bulletin*. The digital version is far superior – lots of color and the ability to search. Or you may want to save the club a bit of expense, since mailing is not free. Or, indeed, you may be very environmentally conscious and want to reduce the use of paper. Whatever the reason, you should let us know. To discontinue receiving printed, mailed copies of this Bulletin, please inform both Fred Tauber (fxtauber[at]shaw.ca) and Jeff Pacey (jpacey[at]telus.net). If you want to donate mint Canadian postage stamps for use in the mailings, please contact Jeff. They can be of any value and from any era. Feel free, for example, to send a mint copy of the 12-pence Queen Victoria stamp from 1851.

It's Not Just Canada Post

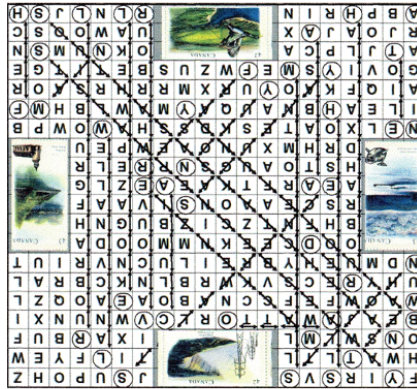
Ed Dykstra
eddydykstra(at)shaw.ca

Two early Faroe Islands issues. Mailmen should not be allowed to carry pens. Just saying....



Canadian Rivers on Canadian Stamps - Solution

By Tony Doughty




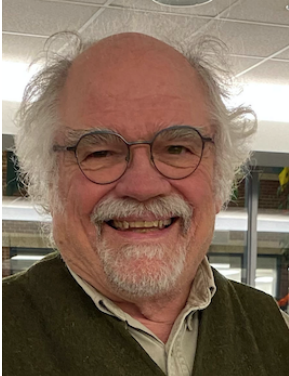

About Us: Bradley Harris

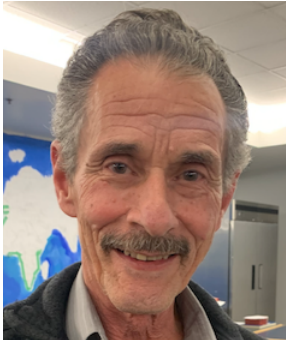


I'm a freelance writer and editor by profession, and teach in the Media Studies program at Rhodes College, Memphis. Since 1985, I have collected Canada bill stamps (1864-1882), especially as used on the original documents. For about fifteen minutes, I have been collecting stamps, postcards, and covers from the underappreciated French West African colony of Haut Senegal et Niger (1904-1922). During COVID, I started collecting perforation gauges, and now have hundreds--even though I have zero interest in counting perforations. I'm a Canadian citizen, from Edmonton originally, and a former officer in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, though now I'm ensconced in the Deep South. My father (Ed Harris) and grandfather (Fred Harris) were both members of the Edmonton Stamp Club. One of my earliest collecting memories, circa age six or seven, was helping Dad and friends set up an ESC show in the old Corona Hotel downtown Edmonton.¹ I hope all that explains why a guy so far away wants to join your club.

¹ Editorial note: Keith Spencer wrote an interesting article on the Corona Hotel, published in the September 2023 issue of this *Bulletin* (vol. 112, no. 7).

Club Winners

Everyone's so happy. No wonder!

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Arif Sheena won the door prize, 4 November | Mark Boyce won \$50 on the 50/50, 4 November | Brian Heibert won the door prize, 18 November |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| Peter Hemsworth won \$35.50 on the 50/50, 18 November | Tim Graff won the door prize, 2 December | Garry Geddes won the 50/50, 2 December |



Meeting Dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club meets Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joseph High School, 10830-109 Street. Park to the north of the school and use the main entrance at the southeast corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-467-4825 or 780-437-1787.

2024-25

16 December (Christmas meal -- \$25 + gift for food bank)

6 and 20 January
10 and 31 March
12 and 26 May

3 and 24 February
14 and 28 April
9 and 23 June

