

CALGARY PHILATELIST

October 2022

Issue 195



Your humble editor Dale Speirs took this photo in 1978 when he was a student at the University of Alberta. The Queen visited Edmonton for the Commonwealth Games. Dale saw her on a walkabout and lifted his camera up at arm's length with the shutter held down.

Out of the roll of film he got one good photo of the Queen smiling. On the far side, Prince Philip was standing with his back to the camera between two police officers.

The Queen is dead. Long live the King !

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The CPS was founded in April 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association.

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LONG MAY SHE REIGN, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STAMPS?

by Dale Speirs

When Canada Post announced its 2002 stamp programme, there was initially indignation from monarchists because nothing was shown of a Queen Elizabeth II definitive. However, a follow-up indicated that there would be a stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of the accession of the Queen to the throne in 1952.

It was not the first time there was a squawk about a lack of QEII stamps. Starting in 1977, during the Pierre Trudeau era, monarchists were kept in a continuous uproar by what appeared to them to be unjust neglect of the Queen.

The 1977 Commemorative.

On February 4, 1977, the subject of a QEII commemorative for her 25th anniversary on the throne was brought up in the House of Commons by W.G. Dinsdale, member for Brandon-Souris [1].

During Question Period he asked the Postmaster General J.-J. Blais about the stamp, but prefaced his question with a sly dig at the Post Office: *"I congratulate him for issuing a commemorative stamp honouring the Queen and also for the ceremony which was held this morning at which the Minister upheld the reputation of the Post Office by arriving slightly late."*

After a pause for the *"Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!"*, Dinsdale went on to ask: *"In view of the high denominational value of the stamp and the popularity of the monarch, is the Postmaster General planning to use this stamp to retire the deficit of the Post Office?"*



The PMG was quite unperturbed and calmly replied: *"Well, Mr. Speaker, that would be desirable, and I appreciate the remarks of the hon. gentleman. I would like to add that if there was a slight delay, it had nothing at all to do with the Post Office. I was relying on the Ministry of Transport to bring me there. ..."*

"However, with reference to the high value of the stamp, we felt that a 25-cent issue would coincide with Her Majesty's twenty-fifth anniversary very well. I would like to indicate also that the silver foil which was used in that stamp was not the result of any melting of silver coins left over from the coin program, in case the hon. gentleman might ask."

The Storm Arrives.

That was but the prelude to a greater storm, for several weeks later, on April 25, John Diefenbaker raised a question about why the recently issued 12-cent definitives depicted the Parliament buildings instead of the Queen. He was reacting to a Canadian Press report which had appeared in the newspapers two days earlier announcing the lack of a QEII stamp, and which quoted Post Office spokesman John Blenkinsop as saying he could give no reason for the change [2].

This was waving a red flag in the faces of unreconstructed monarchists such as Diefenbaker, who unsuccessfully sought a motion “ ... *in condemnation of the government of its latest step in the surreptitious downgrading of the Monarchy by replacing the Queen's head from the 12-cent stamp, this being the first time in history that the definitive stamp does not bear the Monarch's likeness.*” [3].



After this motion failed, another opposition member, Donald Munro, took up the challenge. PMG Blais told him the whole thing was based on an erroneous report by the Canadian Press agency, and that there would be both Parliament and QEII 12-cent definitives [4].

In response to a supplemental question by Munro, Blais defended the two types of definitives, saying that: “ ... *we are not the only country which issues more than one definitive stamp of main denomination.*”

At this point, Diefenbaker jumped back into the argument [5]: “*Mr. Speaker, I listened to the alibi of the Minister with some interest. Did he not read that one of his officials was asked why the change? Did he not read that*

the official said “I cannot understand why it was made.” The stamp was shown with the Queen entirely removed and when he was asked why it was done he said “I don't know why they did it. ... “.

Blais repeated that the postal official had been misquoted. At this point the debate veered off into the Prime Minister's well-known antipathy to the monarchy, and Diefenbaker dropped the stamp issue in favour of bashing Pierre Trudeau.

Has Anyone Seen The Queen?

The topic of the QEII stamp re-surfaced on December 19, 1978, and not surprisingly, Diefenbaker was the one who revived it [6]. This time he went directly after Trudeau: “*I have said on a number of occasions that this government is endeavouring to downgrade the monarchy. I need only point to what the Prime Minister said. He said he had no more use for the Queen than he had for snowshoeing or skiing.*”

After a bit of did not-did too between Diefenbaker and Trudeau, interspersed with frequent “*Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!*”, Diefenbaker finally got down to his point: “*On this very date, neither in the House of Commons post office nor in the Senate post office can one purchase any stamps with the Queen’s head thereon. Why is that? I asked specifically for them and I was told there were none. Was that coincidence?*”

This brings to mind a rather interesting mental picture of Diefenbaker downstairs at the post office, looming over the counter (he was a tall man) and spluttering at some hapless postal clerk, who probably wished she had phoned in sick that day. One can imagine heads turning in the post office lobby as Diefenbaker boomed out loudly and indignantly at the lack of QEII stamps.

The Postmaster General, Gilles Lamontagne, calmed Diefenbaker down in the House by promising to personally see to it that the stamps were put into stock by the next day. “*That is fine.*”, Diefenbaker said, and subsided back into his seat, as the House then went on to consider the Alaska pipeline.

(When you read through HANSARD, you will notice that the members jump randomly from one item to the next, and apparently have the attention span of a fungus gnat. The importance of a subject is not correlated with the amount of time spent discussing it in the House.)

You Shall Hear Of Rumours.

The next philatelic outburst in the Commons began on October 30, 1981, when opposition backbencher D.M. Collenette queried Prime Minister Trudeau about rumours that in 1982 there would be no postage stamp with the Queen’s portrait [7]. (Diefenbaker had died in 1979.)

Again, the whole thing was touched off by an inaccurate report in the newspapers. Trudeau used the opportunity to get in a few ironic digs at the Tories about the monarchy, but after the usual to-and-fro subsided, he confirmed unequivocally that there would be a QEII definitive in the forthcoming year.

The matter reappeared a week later on November 3, when backbencher Bud Bradley looked further ahead to the future and asked the Minister Responsible for Canada Post (there no longer being a Postmaster General) about 1983 and subsequent years [8].

Andre Ouellet, the Minister, pointed out that stamp programmes were not decided that far ahead, and added: “*I think somebody, somewhere, is really trying to create a problem that does not exist.*”

Where Is She?

The 36-cent QEII definitive was a short-lived one, and its delay in appearing raised concerns among monarchists. Backbencher Reginald Stackhouse asked on May 29, 1987, about where it was [9].



In between a question about a shortage of dairy herdsmen and another about Via Rail maintenance shops, he put the question: “*Mr. Speaker, is Canada Post going republican? When the new 36-cent stamps were issued in April many were disappointed to discover that there was none bearing the Queen’s portrait. This stamp was promised twice for dates in May but still has not appeared.*”

“Many Toronto customers have been told by post office workers there that it might never be issued. If this were an isolated incident it might be accepted as only an inconvenience. However, it impresses many from experience that it is a part of a pattern. It is a serious grievance to all Canadians who esteem the Queen as Canada’s head of state.”

Stackhouse came back to the matter on August 31, since the 36-cent stamps had still not yet appeared [10]. Harvie Andre, the Minister Responsible explained that: “*Apparently there have been some production problems with the supplier of those stamps. I was hoping they were working on a stamp with my picture on it but this is apparently not the case.*”

“Some. hon. members: Oh, oh!”

“Mr. Andre: I am told that on October 1 there should be 15 million such stamps available for Canadian consumers.”

That stamp finally did appear on October 1, but only had a brief life, as the postal rate was shortly thereafter raised to 37 cents. Genuinely-used non-philatelic covers with this stamp in correct time of use are rare. Mint stamps are common. Canada Post moved a bit faster with its replacement, and the 37 cent QEII definitive was available on December 30, 1987.

Keeping The Queen In Stock.

In subsequent years, the complaints about QEII stamps were of post offices not keeping them in stock for customers. Backbencher Cyril Keeper complained to the Commons on July 7, 1988, that his constituents couldn’t find the stamps in Winnipeg post offices [11].

Later in the day, Harvie Andrie responded to the question by reporting that Station A had 10,000 in stock. Evidently someone had made telephone calls from Ottawa to Winnipeg in order to advise the Minister.

Ten years later, the situation did not appear to have changed much. John Aimers, the Chairman of the Monarchist League of Canada, was testifying before a Senate committee and mentioned in passing a conspiracy theory popular among monarchists [12].

He said: “*Some years ago, Canada Post decided to allow an option vis-a-vis the purpose of definitive postage stamps. It offered the Canadian flag as an option to the definitive bearing the portrait of Her Majesty. I should add that a loyal, constitutionally-minded Crown corporation might never have forced Canadians to make that choice. By squirreling away the Queen stamps into the bottom of obscure drawers and by making the flag stamps easily available in a variety of formats, the option very nearly became the rule.*”

Canada Post denied this was the case and said that flag stamp booklets outsold QEII booklets by a four to one margin. It had therefore discontinued the Queen booklets but would still be selling those stamps in sheet form [13].

Notwithstanding this, a fuss about the Queen stamps in Ottawa postal outlets prompted Canada Post officials to tour all 61 outlets to enforce stocking of the stamps [14]. One monarchist pointed out that people had to ask for the stamps, which, if in stock at all, were usually in a back room. He then pointed out that if despite this handicap the Queen stamps still sold one for every four of the touted flag stamps, then there must still be a demand for Queen stamps [15].

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- 6] Diefenbaker, J.G. (1978-12-19) Postage stamps bearing picture of Her Majesty the Queen. CANADA HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES 4th Session, 30th Parliament 3:2256-2257
- 7] Collenette, D.M. (1981-10-30) Monarch's portrait on postage stamps. CANADA HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES 1st Session, 32nd Parliament 11:12344
- 8] Bradley, Bud (1981-11-03) Appearance of monarch's portrait on postage stamps. CANADA HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES 1st Session, 32nd Parliament 11:12438-12439
- 9] Stackhouse, Reginald (1987-05-29) Omission of Queen's portrait from postage stamps. CANADA HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES 2nd Session, 33rd Parliament 5:6527
- 10] Stackhouse, Reginald (1987-08-31) Omission of Queen's portrait from stamps. CANADA HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES 2nd Session, 33rd Parliament 7:8612
- 11] Keeper, Cyril (1988-07-07) Winnipeg - Alleged lack of stamps bearing monarch's picture. CANADA HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES 2nd Session, 33rd Parliament 14:17237, 17242

12] Aimers, John (1998-06-17) Examination of Bill S-15. PROCEEDINGS OF THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS 1st Session, 36th Parliament 29:27

13] Robertson, Ian (1998-06-23) Booklets drop Queen. CANADIAN STAMP NEWS 23(3):1

14] Rogers, D. (1998-06-03) Stamping out dissent. OTTAWA CITIZEN, page B8

15] Taylor, John (1998-06-02) Must be a big demand for Queen stamps despite unfair marketing. OTTAWA CITIZEN, page A1

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DEPICTED ON BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS

by Dave Russum

Britain did not produce stamps depicting Elizabeth until after she became Queen. I don't collect mint stamps so the examples in this review are the cleanest items I can find in my collection. Princess Elizabeth married Phillip Mountbatten in 1947, but no British stamps were issued to commemorate the event.

Definitive Stamps.

The first British stamps depicting Queen Elizabeth II as monarch were the 1½d and 2½d Wilding head stamps issued ten months after the Queen ascended the throne (Figure 1). Delay in production of new stamps was a continuation of the WWII mindset of using up existing stamps of King George VI rather than immediately issuing new stamps. It was a further six months before her Coronation and the first commemorative stamps of her reign depicted on four dissimilar stamps (Figure 2).

Only two pictures of the Queen have been depicted on Britain's definitive stamps. The Wilding head stamps were replaced starting in 1967 with the introduction of the Machin head stamps which have endured ever since. The 4d stamp was changed from dark sepia to vermilion in 1969 repeating the lesson learnt in 1841 that black cancels don't show on a black stamp (Figure 3).

More than 500 different Machin definitive stamps have been issued by Britain. The use of Queen Elizabeth's head on stamps, coins and banknotes in both Britain and other countries of the Commonwealth over more than 70 years make her the most depicted person in history. Britain decimalised their currency in 1971 requiring a complete re-issue of the Machin stamps (Figure 4). (Canada decimalised in the 1850s.)

Problems with forgery and cleaning of stamps for reuse have been perennial problems for Royal Mail. This resulted in many variations to make forgery and cleaning more difficult, such as elliptical perforations, iridescent overprints, and u-shaped slits (Figure 5).

In 2021, Datamatrix stamps were issued which incorporated unique 2D bar-coding within a larger Machin design (Figure 6). All this has come to nought as reports are already surfacing of forged Datamatrix stamps being used to send mail. With the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Machin Datamatrix stamps are likely to be short-lived in Britain.



Fig 1: First QEII Wildings, Issued 5 Dec 1952

Fig 2: Coronation stamp, Issued 3 Jun 1953



Fig 3: Pre-decimal Machins (currency 'd')

Fig 4: Decimal Machins (currency 'P')



Fig 5: NVI Security Machin for 1st Class mail

Fig 6: Datamatrix Machin



Fig. 7: One of 10 stamps issued to mark Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday.

Commemorative Stamps.

35 sets of commemoratives (nearly 200 different stamps) depicting Royalty were issued by Britain's Royal Mail during Queen Elizabeth's reign. Sets have become larger (up to 10 stamps per set for major anniversaries (Figure 7), and with a greater concentration on photographs in recent years.

Mini-sheets have also become popular souvenirs which rarely get used for postage purposes. Figure 8 is a mini-sheet marking the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday in 2000 showing four generations of the Royal Family (left to right Queen Elizabeth II, Prince William, Queen Mother, and Prince Charles).



Prince Charles' first marriage to Diana (Princess of Wales), the birth of their sons, William and Harry; divorce and subsequent untimely death can all be depicted though the philatelic medium.

Later marriage to his true love Camilla Parker-Bowles was a much happier affair (Figure 9).



King Charles III.

There was a question whether Prince Charles would ever become King. He had been Heir Apparent for all the 70 years and 214 days that Queen Elizabeth II was on the throne), far longer than any previous Prince of Wales. If he became King, would he retain the Charles name? (he also bore the given names of Philip, Arthur, and George). These questions were answered within hours of his mother's death on 8 Sep 2022.



Who were King Charles I and King Charles II? A set of previous Kings and Queens issued by Royal Mail in 2010, included stamps depicting Charles' forbears.

(Figure 10): Charles I (beheaded in 1649 during the Civil War) and Charles II (who became

King when the Royalists returned to power in 1660 after the death of Oliver Cromwell).

HELP NEEDED WITH STORAGE

by Murray Bialek

(403) 241-2006 or mbialek@shaw.ca

Our show frames are now being stored at the Kerby Centre. This will save us a lot of time and effort because we no longer have to arrange for volunteers to transport them for our annual CALTAPEX show. However, we still have a few items, listed below, that need to be stored off site and we need a volunteer with a bit of space in their garage, shed, or basement. If we cannot find a volunteer to help, these items will have to be stored outdoors during winter! Please contact Murray Bialek if you can help.

- 3 wooden horizontal dollies
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- A few carpet pieces
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Memberships for the 2022-2023 year are now due. If you have not already paid, you may pay your dues of \$25 as follows. Preferably via e-transfer directly from your bank account to the CPS Membership Director, Murray Bialek, at mbialek@shaw.ca

or via cheque made out to “Calgary Philatelic Society” and mailed to:
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Calgary T3B 5K2

CALGARY BNAPS

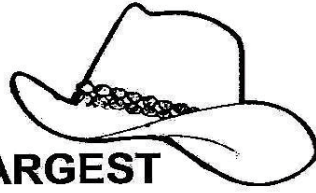
The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society held its monthly meeting on September 14 via Zoom. Dave Bartlet was the host and there were 19 participants. The meeting began with photos taken at CPS 2022 BNAPEX and playing of two podcasts about the convention by CBC Radio and Global TV.

The second half of the meeting was a show-and-tell by members. Mourning covers for Queen Elizabeth II were displayed by Doug Lingard, Dave Bartlet, and Trevor Ashman. Doug also exhibited a 1959 Calgary Stampede cover sent to Brazil. Mark Oakley presented a cover from Oakley, Saskatchewan, which he bought at CPS 2022 BNAPEX and which made his weekend. Bill Aaroe showed an official poster specifying regulations for postmasters, kept in the back room of a post office. Ray Villeneuve presented some Special Delivery covers, as well as a cover from Russell County, Canada West (today Ontario).

CAPE

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors met via Zoom on September 28. Dave Russum moderated and there were 11 participants. The main theme was a discussion of judging and exhibiting using the recent CPS 2022 BNAPEX show as an example. Jan Brookes talked about her experience as an apprentice judge at the show. She mentioned that common faults were mis-spellings, gaps in the material shown, and failure to tell a story rather than just putting in a sequence of pages.

There followed an extended discussion on the purpose of exhibiting. If you are a medal hunter, then you must get serious about following the rules and having completeness. The alternative is to exhibit for fun and tell a story about some byway of philately without worrying about what medal you might win.



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CLUB NEWS

The September bulletin was mailed from the Creekside Shoppers Drug Mart RePO on 8 Street NW in Airdrie. The whale stamps were used.

Publications by CPS members:

Dale Speirs had an article “Getting philatelic club bulletins postmarked” in the 2022 September issue of PMCC BULLETIN, published by the Post Mark Collectors Club.

At the October 5 general meeting, Dave Russum presented “Changing The Guard”, which was a look at how British stamps changed when the monarch did and what to expect until the King Charles III stamps are ready.

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS SEASON

by Jim Senecal

jsenecal@telusplanet.net or (403) 547-7681

A Saturday auction at the Kerby Centre (using our normal room) will be held October 22. Members may bring up to 10 lots starting at 09h30. Viewing to begin at 10h00 and the auction will be called at 11h30. Normal auction rules will apply.

On January 18, our normal auction night will become a members’ night where CPS members may sell their own material. Estate items will be offered by Doug Kollar. There will be a \$5 charge for tables.

The 2023 Spring Bourse will be held on the weekend of April 15 and 16.

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MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2022

October	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	19	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	Saturday auction - Kerby Centre
	26	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
November	2	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	2	Deadline for November bulletin
	9	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	16	Auction - Kerby Centre
	23	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
December	7	Christmas social - Kerby Centre
	7	Deadline for December bulletin
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom

2023

January	4	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	4	Deadline for January bulletin
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	18	Auction - Kerby Centre
	25	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
February	1	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	1	Deadline for February bulletin
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	CAPE meeting - via Zoom

Vehicles in both Kerby parking lots must have licence plate numbers registered inside the building at the computer terminals. This is a 24/7 policy and the CPS is not exempt. Otherwise your vehicle will be clamped or towed.

Meetings and **Auctions** are at the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, Room 205 (Lecture Room), at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow viewing.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets via Zoom on second Wednesdays. Contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca.

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets via Zoom on fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Dave Russum at russumd@telusplanet.net

Junior Club meetings information from Jim Senecal at 403-547-7681.