

Geography determined that we have these stamps

Unlike Europe where an efficient and extensive train service existed, North America with its sparse population spread across a large continent, required special delivery and Airmail services. As a result, Canada and the United States of America have more Special Delivery and Airmail stamps than any other country. Canada issued many such stamps but selected only 35 for Official Government use.

This exhibit is about these stamps

A tiny but fascinating segment of Canadian Philately, complete with an astonishing mix of allegory, heraldry, icons, patriotism, and classic mythology...



The Official Special Delivery and Airmail Stamps of Canada: 1928 – 1950

Official Special Delivery Stamps

Although Canada introduced Special Delivery Postal Services on July 1, 1898, it was not until 1928 that the first Official Special Delivery Stamp was issued:



10 cent blue green "Within City Limits"

Issued 1928

Position A

The second stamp had a similar restriction:

"Special Delivery for First Class Mail Only Within Limits"



20 cents Carmine, "Within City Limits"

Issued August 21, 1922 as a regular stamp and some time in 1923 for official purposes

Position F

However, on January 1, 1923 Canada and the United States of America signed an agreement recognizing each country's Special Delivery Stamps and agreed to provide reciprocal services.

Special Delivery Stamps paid only for the Special Delivery services; first class postage was also required. If registration services were required that too required additional postage. Most covers will have two or more stamps in addition to the Special Delivery stamp.

Special Delivery Stamp...

Issued as part of the 60th Anniversary of Confederation Series



20 cent Five Stages of mail Transportation

Position A, die #3, Mint

Quantity: est 2500-3000

Position FX double perforated, Mint

Issued June 29, 1927

Looking through a Multifoil Arch one sees in the foreground: **The Five Stages of Mail Transportation:** a dog sled, a mounted mail carrier (look closely: his bag says: Canada P.O.), a mail train, a ship, and two bi planes. The background celebrates the vast and beautiful geography of Canada: the mountain is Mount Cathedral in Yoho National Park, Alberta; the train rumbles across what looks like the Prairies; while the dog sled team glides across snow on a northern tundra, and the ship cruises the mighty St Lawrence River.



Designed by H. H. Schwartz, from a painting by staff artist at Canadian Bank Note Co. Engraver: Edwin Gunn

Special Delivery Stamp...

Issued as part of the Arch and Maple Leaf Definitive Series



20 cent Henna Brown

Issued September 2, 1930

"Twenty Cents"



20 cent Henna Brown

Re-issued December 24, 1930

"Cents"

These two stamps were issued as companion pieces to the Arch and Maple Leaf series of 1930. The only difference: September 2 issue reads "Twenty Cents", while the revised version of December 24 reads "Cents"

Quantity

Twenty Cents: 2500 estimated

Cents 2000 estimated

Special Delivery Stamp...Allegory of Progress



20 cents dark carmine

Position F

June 1, 1935; Quantity: 2500 estimated

An inspirational stamp in the depression.

The stamp displays a man turning a flywheel, a heavy revolving wheel to increase a machine's momentum. Mercury, the messenger of the Roman Gods, flying above all is pointing the way with his caduceus, the symbol of logistics, and thus an **"Allegory of Progress"**, with perhaps, Mercury symbolizing postal services?

The design was from a painting by Alfonzo Earl Foringer, an American artist. The painting was used by commercial interests in particular Carrier General as well stock certificates. This extensive commercial use lead Canadian Postal officials to replace the stamp in 1938 with a stamp displaying Canada's Coat of Arms.



Special Delivery Stamp...Coat of Arms of Canada



10 cents dark green

Position AS,

Missing period in S, die1 &2



10 cents dark green

Position FS

Missing period in S, die1&2



10 cents green

Position E

Die 4 & 5

Five Hole Issued April 1, 1939 Quantity: 9200 estimated



Canada's Coat of Arms, approved by King George V, November 1921, used on 10 cent Special Delivery Stamps. A new Coat of Arms for Canada was redesigned in 1994

Special Delivery Stamp...Coat of Arms of Canada...

...Plate Blocks

It appears that there was only Plate #1

In the Four Hole and only in Position A.



Special Delivery Stamp...Coat of Arms of Canada...

The Governor General of Canada could mail postage free, but special delivery and other services had to be paid.

This envelope was sent by the
Assistant Secretary
to the Governor General
see blue handstamp

July 5, 1941



Special Delivery Stamp...Coat of Arms of Canada...

...Revised Valuations



10 cents on 20 cents, Dark Carmine

Four Hole Position A

NB portion of cutting guideline, lower right



10 cents on 20 cents, Dark Carmine

Four Hole Position C



10 cents on 20 cents, Dark Carmine

Four Hole Position F

On March 1st, 1939, the Post Office revised the value of and re issued Special Delivery Stamps

Official Airmail Stamps of Canada

Airmail services in Canada started in the late 1920's when air services were rapidly expanding from Coast to Coast and reaching deep into the expansive arctic regions. The first airmail stamp and official airmail stamp was issued September 21st, 1928 and was immediately used the next day for the inaugural airmail flight from Toronto to Ottawa to Montreal to Rimouski.



Five Hole version

Position C



Four Hole version

Position A

Allegory of Flight

Issued Sept. 21, 1928 part of the sovereign & pictorial issue. Approx. 50,000 perforated O.H.M.S.

Two winged figures, Victories, symbolizing flight, are poised on either side of a globe showing Canada. Flying above: a monoplane, the preferred plane for airmail known for speed and efficiency.



Mercury Circling the Globe

Four Hole, Position A

Issued December 4, 1930 as part of the "Arch and Maple Leaf" Issue

In the centre foreground is Mercury, messenger of the Roman Gods, an appropriate allegory of airmail circling a globe in the background turned to feature the western hemisphere.



Two Blocks, one a plate block lower right, both Position A, mint

The Revised Valuations

There was limited uptake on these stamps after they were issued and when the airmail rate was raised from 5 cent to 6 cents, the Post Office simply decided to have the large inventory overprinted. The panes of 100 stamps were overprinted by the British American Bank Note Company



Five Hole, Position A



Five Hole Position F

The “Allegory of Flight”
revalued to 6 cents, February 22, 1932



Position F

Mercury Circling the Globe
revalued 12 July 1932

Mercury Circling the Globe was revalued as part of the British Empire Economic Conference, also known as the Imperial Economic Conference or simply the Ottawa Conference.

The Conference of British Colonies and autonomous Dominions, like Canada, was held in Ottawa from July 21 to August 20, 1932 to discuss the Great Depression.

Daedalus in Flight...an Allegory of Flight and Airmail Services



Position A

Die 4 and 5



Position B and BS

Die 2 and 3



Position D

Die 4 and 5 and light cancel: Toronto



Position F

Die 4

All above Five Hole

Issued June 1st, 1935 to replace the two previous overprinted airmail stamps which had been revalued and overprinted. The "Allegory of Progress" Special Delivery stamp was issued on the same day and printed by Canadian Bank Note Company. Both were designed by Alonzo Foringer, who once again uses a heroic figure, to represent airmail services.

Dominating the stamp in the foreground is Daedalus, from ancient Greek mythology and in the background is Mount Baker and some gulf islands.

Daedalus was a craftsman and artist who, legend has it, created the Labyrinth to house the Minotaur under the court of King Minos of Crete.

So that the secret to the Labyrinth would be kept, Daedalus and his son Icarus were imprisoned in a tower. Daedalus crafted sets of wings composed of feathers and wax so that he and Icarus might fly and escape from the tower. Ignoring warnings from his father Icarus flew too close to the sun, his wings melted and he fell to his death.

Mount Baker, in the background, is in Washington State but is clearly visible from Oak Bay, a District close to Victoria BC. **Peter Newroth of Victoria** wrote in 2016 that the photograph used in the stamp picture of Mount Baker was likely taken from where the current Oak Bay Beach Hotel is now located. The two islands shown are Chatham to the left of Daedalus' feet and Discovery Island behind the feet of Daedalus.

Daedalus in Flight...an Allegory of Flight and Airmail Services

....Four Hole Stamps

In 1939 the Post Office re issued the Daedalus airmail and was now perforated in with the “four hole” perforations, so called because the uprights on the H were composed of 4 perforations.



Position A, Mint



Position C, Used



Position CZ Mint

Top stamp perforated C

while attached bottom stamp has no perforations



Monoplane and Steamer, 6 cent airmail



Position A Die 4 & 5



Position AS & A die 2 & 3



Position D Die 3&4

All stamps above 5 hole

Issued as part of the 1938 pictorial definitive issue. Issued June 15, 1938; estimated quantity perforated: 295,000. Designed by Herman Herbert Schwartz based on a photograph by Richard N. Hourde engraving by Arthur C. Vogel and William H. Maple.

The stamp shows a contrived scene with a sternwheeler (S.S. Distributor) at a landing dock on the McKenzie River, with a group of men hauling supplies from the boat to the landing; taken from a photograph of similar activities in Aklavik, which was once located near the mouth of the McKenzie where it empties into the Arctic Ocean. Flying above is a twin-engine seaplane. The juxtaposition of the plane and sternwheeler shows the contrast of the old and new ways of delivering goods and the mail in that era



Enlargement of airmail stamp showing paddle wheeler and twin engine plane, and perforations clearly visible as position A

Monoplane and Steamer, 6 cent airmail... Four Hole



Position A, Mint



Position C, Mint



Plate #1 Lower Left and Lower Right, plus 2 blocks with selvedge, All Position A

Monoplane and Steamer, 6 cent airmail... Four Hole



6 cent Position A

Partial double perf



6 cent Position AX



6 cent AX Magnified



6 cent Monoplane and steamer Position A, top strip of 20

Monoplane and Steamer, 6 cent airmail... Four Hole Covers



REUSE COVER used during war to save paper, over a Red Cross envelope, from Dept of Pensions Regina to Veteran's Allowance Board Ottawa, Stamp: Position A



Airmail cover from Dept of Transport Moncton NB to St John's, Sept 12, 1942, stamp Position A

World War II Airmail Stamps...



6 cent airmail

Position A



7 cent airmail

Position CZ, top Position C No perforations bottom

The 6-cent stamp was issued on January 7, 1942, and the 7 cents on April 16, 1943. They were issued as companion stamps to the war effort pictorial stamps, issued in 1942 and 1943

The foreground shows a "Harvard" which was the principle training airplane in the program; over 21,000 such planes were used.. In the upper right corner of the background are three Harvards flying in formation. These stamps celebrate the British Commonwealth Air Training Program centered in Canada, one of the first and most important contributions Canada would make to the war effort.



Above Plate #1 Position A UL & LL



Top: Plate #1 Position C UL. Below blk of 4 Position A

World War II Airmail Stamps...Plate Blocks

Seven cents Airmail



Plate # 3, Position A LL



Block of 4 Position A



Plate # 4 Position C UR



Plate # 4 Position A LL

World War II Airmail Stamps:

Seven cents Airmail



Position A



Position AX



Magnified AX



Plate Block #2 Position A LL



Plate Block #2 Position A LR



BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AIR MAILING PLAN
PLAN INTERNATIONAL AERIE DU COMMONWEALTH
CANADIAN AIR MAIL (S. 17744A, 54)

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...



Four Hole, Position A

Issued 1946



Four Hole, Position C

Issued 1946



OHMS Overprint

Issued 1949



G Overprint

Issued 1950

An iconic Canada Goose flying over a landscape reminiscent of Northern Ontario is an appropriate symbol for a Canadian Airmail stamp.

The stamp was designed by Herman Herbert Schwartz, and engraved by Silas Robert Allen.

This Canada Goose stamp is one of only nine stamps that appears in the Four Hole perforations, the O.H.M.S series and finally the G overprint.



Airmail from Ottawa, Department of Reconstruction, to Washington DC USA, March 9, 1948

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...Four Hole Plate Blocks



Plate Block #1, Position C UL



Plate Block #1, Position C UR



Plate #1 Position A, LL



Plate #1 Position A, LR

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...on cover

From Rideau Hall, home of Governor General

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

Free franked cover, plus

Seven cent Canada Goose

For airmail to USA



Mailed February 20, 1950

Stamp Perf: Position A

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...Four Hole Plate Blocks



Plate #2, Position C UL



Plate #2, Position C UR



Block of Four, selvage Left side



Plate #2, Position , LR

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp:

O.H.M.S. Overprint, Matched Set Plate#1...with Missing Period" in lower left



Magnified view of
Missing Period after "S"



Missing Period after "S" in lower right stamp ●

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...

... O.H.M.S. Overprint, Matched Set Plate#2



The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...

... O.H.M.S. Overprint

...Upper Right Block of 25



The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...

... Matched Set Overprinted G

Plate #1



Air Mail/Special Delivery Stamps

These two Airmail/Special Delivery Stamps we issued as companion pieces to the Allied War Effort pictorial definitive series issued in 1942 and 1943. The first was the 16 cent stamp issued on January 7, 1942, while the 17 cent was issued on April 17, 1943. The stamps feature a Trans Canada Airlines plane flying over a city. TCA operated from 1937 until 1965 when it was renamed Air Canada. An unusual, but pleasing shade of ultramarine was used in printing the stamp



Position A



Position C



A cover from Ottawa, mailed June 15, 1943, to Edgewood Arsenal, in Maryland US of A.

16 cent stamp Position A, 1 cent stamp Position F

Major Abramson was a scientist at the Edgewood Arsenal, a military facility focused on chemical warfare. There are many covers to Major Abramson all written in same hand, all with Official stamps. These may have been "favours" and he may have been a collector.

Air Mail/Special Delivery Stamps

16 cent Air mail/Special Delivery

It is likely this stamp was only issued in plate #1



Plate Block #1 Position A, UL



Plate Block #1 Position A, LL

The Last Canadian Airmail Stamp...G Overprint

Matched Set Plate #2 plus block of four



Air Mail/Special Delivery Stamps

These 17 cent stamp was issued On April 17, 1943. The stamps feature a Trans Canada Airlines plane flying over a city. TCA operated from 1937 until 1965 when it was renamed Air Canada. An unusual, but pleasing shade of ultramarine was used in printing the stamp



Plate #1 LL, Position A



Position A



Mailed from Ottawa on July 10, 1945 to Edgewood Arsenal Maryland, a military facility focused on chemical warfare. There are several letters addressed to Major Abramson. These may all be "favours"

Air Mail/Special Delivery Stamps...

This stamp was issued September 1946. The stamps to the right has an error: Express at the bottom has a "circumflex" accent above the second e in Express,

The stamps below were issued on December 3, 1947 and the error was corrected: Express has an accent grave



Position A



Position C



Position A



Position C



Blank corner plate, Position A, Circumflex accent

Plate #1 Position AZ. Corrected accent: grave accent

Special Delivery Wartime and Peace Time



10 cent Coat of Arms & Flags
Perforated Four Hole, Position C,
July 1, 1942



10 cent Coat of Arms & Laurels
Position A, Perforated Four Hole
Sept 16, 1946



Overprinted O.H.M.S.
1949



Overprinted G
1950

The 1942 issue with the Flags was issued as part of the Wartime series. As in prior Special Delivery Stamps Canada's Coat of Arms is centre and is flanked by flags of Canada's armed forces, the Navy, the Army and Airforce.

When WWII ended a new regular series (Sept 1946) of stamps were issued and included was a new Special Delivery, again with Canada's Coat of Arms centre but now flanked with Laurel and Olive leaves symbolizing peace.

This design continued and when perforating Official stamps ceased in 1949 the same design for the Special Delivery stamp was overprinted O.H.M.S. The overprinting O.H.M.S. lasted only one year and in 1950 Official stamps were stamped with a G, for Government or Gouvernement.

The overprinted G was the **last Special Delivery stamp issued by the Post Office**. On December 22, 1951, the Post Office announced the end of issuing Special Delivery Stamps because of the "...the comparatively small sale of the item." After this time additional regular postage as applied and a sticker or handwritten note requesting Special Delivery.

This stamp is one of the very few stamps to be in the four-hole perforation series, the OHMS overprint and the G overprint.

Special Delivery Wartime...Matched Set

Perforated 4 hole, Position A, Plate #1. NB Flags of Armed Forces flank the Coat of Arms

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA 311

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA 311



CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA 311

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA 311

N94-1055-11

Special Delivery: 10 cent Coat of Arms & Laurels

Perforated 4 hole, Position C, Plate #1. NB Coat of Arms flanked by Laurels (Peace symbol)



Special Delivery Wartime and Peace Time: Covers



10 cent Coat of Arms with Armed Forces Flags , September 1, 1943, Ottawa to Toronto



10 cent Coat of Arms and Laurels from Governor General Assistant to Ottawa newspaper, March 11, 1950

Special Delivery: 10 cent Coat of Arms & Laurels

O.H.M.S Overprint, Matched Set Plate #1

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED (OTTAWA, ONT.)

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED (OTTAWA, ONT.)



CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED (OTTAWA, ONT.)

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED (OTTAWA, ONT.)

191 892-1

Special Delivery Wartime and Peace Time: Covers

IF UNDELIVERED, RETURN TO
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY

O. H. M. S.



AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

10 cent Special Delivery OHMS plus Laurels with 5 cent QEII "Wilding" Overprint G, Ottawa, June 7 1961

If not called for return in 10 days to
SOLDIER SETTLEMENT AND VETERAN'S LAND ACT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
at point of mailing

Si non réclamée après dix jours, prière de retourner à
L'OFFICE DE L'ÉTABLISSEMENT AGRICOLE DES VÉTÉRANS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS
au lieu d'expédition



Mr. C. W. Pickard,
P.O. Box 339,
Moncton, N. B.

Personal

V.L.A. 214 (REV. 1-50)

10 cent Special Delivery with KG VI 4 cent Orange G overprint, June 15, 1953, Sussex NB to Moncton NB

Special Delivery Wartime and Peace Time: Covers

Two Official stamps on one cover

The 10 cent Special Delivery, issued

1949 to replace the perforated

Stamp issued in 1946

Plus 7 cent airmail

Canada Goose



Ottawa to Guelph

December 18, 1952

National Film Board

Special Delivery: 10 cent Coat of Arms & Laurels

G Overprint, Matched Set Plate #1

103
CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED OTTAWA, ONT.



NO 1 892-1
CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED OTTAWA, ONT.

CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO. LIMITED OTTAWA, ONT.