

SYNOPSIS

Title – CANADIAN MAIL THE POST OFFICE AND COVID-19

Purpose of Exhibit – Canada Post's reaction to Covid-19 and the effects on the Mail and People of Canada.

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Historical Background –

Covid-19 first presented problems in Canada during March 2020. Its effects are still a major problem and will probably continue to be a problem throughout 2022 and even longer. Covid-19 has caused mail delays, loss of services, many changes in behaviour within the Post Office.

Scope –

We show the many commercial letters that were seen showing masks being worn, rolling up the sleeve for vaccination for Covid-19, references to Covid-19 in the wording on the envelopes. A number of groups and individuals ordered stamps and produced covers related to Covid-19. Many events were cancelled including stamp shows and in some cases they were replaced by Virtual online events. We show covers produced for these. "Medals" were produced on card to the BNAPEX 2021 VIRTUAL.

We show a letter returned with labels because of Covid-19 to a foreign country.

Canada Post produced at Christmas 2021 a package for all employees thanking them for their work during Covid-19. The 2 booklets of Special Stamps and a pin contained are presented.

Every address in Canada received a Prepaid Post Special Postcard for use anywhere in Canada. It was stated that this was to promote staying in touch with friends and relatives during Covid-19. There were 6 different cards in French and six in English. We show all the mint and used cards. On the English used cards are tracing of my Great Grand Children's hands.

Canada Post used cancels in a number of the sorting plants - Honouring Health Care Workers.

The Christmas Cards and Postcards sent to members of "Solutions for Small Business", Stamp Clubs and the Philatelic Industry and Members of the Stamp Advisor Committee.

Finally we show signs posted in the Post Office Lobbies regarding Delivery Standards, who was not allowed to enter the Post Office, the number of people allowed in the Post Office Lobby and the use of masks and physical distancing.

Availability –

Many items are found by searching the garbage outside Post Offices and in the Mail Room of apartment buildings for Covid-19 related Commercial Mail and the Free Postcards. The way the Free Postcards were delivered facing inside the folder, caused many people to discard them as "junk advertising" and I got over 40 from the garbage. I traded sets of English cards with collectors in Quebec for French cards obtained in the same manner. A Friendly Post Office employee provided the Post Office Gift.

The returned Mail to restricted country was very hard to find. I sent a number of letters in April or May of 2020 which were never returned. They were probably just thrown out.

Highlights include –

The returned cover from Haiti is scarce..

Philatelic References –

Outside of the Canada Post Website, I am not aware of other than a brief mention of the Free Postcards. I would appreciate knowing of other references.