

The Philatelic Scene during the Admiral Era

Synopsis

Purpose

Admiral stamps were current from about 1912 to 1928. During that 17 year period, there were major innovations in the production of sheet, booklet, and coil stamps. Today's collectors are attracted by the varieties brought about by these innovations as well as the Admiral Issue's shades, plate flaws, marginal markings, paper varieties, and rate changes.

Fortunately for today's collectors, there's a wealth of material available on the market despite the century that has passed since the issue was current. Why is that? It's because a century ago there was a vibrant community of collectors and dealers. Who were they? What philatelic societies, publications, and activities did they enjoy? The purpose of this exhibit is to answer those questions by exploring philately during the Admiral era.

Scope

Philately being a popular, some might say ubiquitous, hobby during the Admiral era, there were a large number of active collectors, dealers, and stamp clubs, far too many to cover in an exhibit. Instead, this exhibit concentrates on a select number of collectors, dealers, societies, and events that were significant during the Admiral era.

Organization and Treatment

This exhibit consists of three frames. Each frame focuses on a particular subject during the Admiral era:

- **Frame 1 - Collectors**
Profiles prominent collectors who collected Canadian material, and/or made important contributions to Canadian philately during the Admiral era. Most are Canadian, but there are two from Great Britain and three from the U.S.
- **Frame 2 - Dealers**
Discusses well known Canadian dealers. Many of them played key roles in organizing and running philatelic societies.

- **Frame 3 - Organized philately**

Describes Canadian philatelic societies, exhibitions, and publications such as books and periodicals.

For each subject, items pertaining to the subject are displayed, and the subject's background and philatelic contributions or significance are described. The items displayed might consist of covers to or from the subject, stamps owned by the subject, or a peripheral item such as a postcard, periodical, or publication. Most items will have originated during the Admiral era; however, because collectors, dealers, etc. didn't just spring up at the beginning of the era or abruptly disappear at the end of it, some items may pre- or post-date the Admiral era so as to complete the story.

Every item displayed will obviously have a philatelic connection. In some cases, the philatelic connection is incidental (for example, a commercial cover with a slogan cancel promoting a philatelic exhibition). In other cases, the item is philatelically inspired (for example, a cover with a cachet promoting a philatelic exhibition). In both cases, the item illustrates part of the story of the subject being treated.

Philatelic Importance

Aside from new issues, most of the stamps and covers we collect today exist because a previous generation of collectors kept and preserved them. The collectors documented their discoveries in periodicals and books. They grew the hobby by organizing clubs and exhibitions. Only by looking back at their activities can we fully appreciate their contributions, the heritage they have provided.

Do we value the legacy left by past collectors? Yes, we do. This is implicit every time the description of an item includes its provenance. That an item was in one or more notable collections of the past adds to its desirability.

Rarity and Difficulty of Acquisition

A few dealers of the Admiral era are well known. Covers with their byline are common. However, covers from most dealers and collectors of the era are difficult to find. Only in some cases is scarcity the reason. More often, vendors don't recognize the name on the cover or may not mention it in the description because they don't consider it significant. Only by diligently searching through dealer stocks and closely examining auction lots can relevant items be found.

Notable items have a red spot beside them. ●

Research

This exhibit draws from many sources:

- Relatively recent philatelic literature on the collectors, dealers, and societies of the past.
- Admiral era books such as:
 1. Geoffrey M. LeHain and Alfred Newman, eds., *Third Canadian Philatelic Exhibition*, St. Lawrence Stamp Collectors, 1925.
 2. William Butler, *The North American Philatelic Year Book*, Stamp Herald Publishing Co., 1927.
- Catalogues published by Admiral era dealers.
- Periodicals that were contemporary in the Admiral era. Among them: *The Canadian Philatelist* (Toronto), *Canadian Stamp Collector* (Brockville, ON), *The Hobbyist* (Winnipeg), *The Stamp Herald* (Kitchener, ON), and *The Western Collector* (Winnipeg & McBride, BC).
- Non-philatelic sources such as the Internet.

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13. Michael O. Nolan, "New Brunswick Active since the Dawn of Stamp Collecting", *The Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 63, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2012.
14. Michael Peach, "Early Philately in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island", *The Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 63, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2012.
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16. Gray Scrimgeour, "Philately in Western Canada Part 1 - British Columbia", *The Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 63, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 2012.
17. Gray Scrimgeour, "Philately in Western Canada Part 2 - The Prairies", published in eight parts in *The Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 64, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 2013, to Vol. 65, No. 2, Mar.-Apr. 2014.
18. Stan Shantz and Don Demarary, *Philately in London 1825-1967*, The London Philatelic Society, 1967.
19. George Wegg, "Victoria and Adelaide", *The Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 27, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1976.
20. John Young, "Victoria and Adelaide Part 2", *The Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 27, No. 4, July-Aug. 1976.