

The Philatelic Scene during the Admiral Era

Admiral stamps were current from about 1912 to 1928. 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?

This exhibit answers those questions by exploring philately during the Admiral era. It does so by profiling collectors, dealers, societies, publications, and events that were significant during that era.

Notable items have a red spot beside them. ●

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

Plan of the Exhibit

Frame 1 - Prominent collectors who collected Canadian material, and/or made important contributions to Canadian philately. Includes two from Great Britain and three from the U.S.

Frame 2 - Well known Canadian dealers from the Admiral era.

Frame 3 - Organized philately: Canadian philatelic societies, exhibitions, books, and periodicals.

Collectors – King George V (1865-1936)



Postcard of King George V
Photo by Bassano, Royal Photographer

King George V was one of the most famous philatelists of his day. In 1893, he was elected Honorary Vice-president of what became the Royal Philatelic Society, London. On 6 July 1893, he married Princess Victoria Mary of Teck. As a wedding present, fellow members of the Society gave him an album of nearly 1,500 postage stamps. He expanded the collection with the purchase of rare stamps and covers. His 1904 purchase of the Mauritius two pence blue for £1,450 set a new record for a single stamp.

King George V and Queen Mary were coronated on 22 June 1911. He continued to work on the Royal collection and add to it while he was King. When he died on 20 January 1936, the collection had grown to 328 so-called "Red Albums", each of about 60 pages.



Initial set of Admiral stamps issued in 1911-1912