

# Variations in the Key of “G”

An exhibit focused on the many variations in “G” Overprinted Canadian Official Stamps

## Scope

In 1950, the Post Office of Canada and the Government of Canada ceased overprinting “Official Stamps” with O.H.M.S. and began overprinting with the single letter “G”. The G stands for government or gouvernement. Having a bilingual symbol was the major motivation for this decision.

There were 35 stamps overprinted with a “G” between 1950 and 1963 with 27 Plus variations because of changes, or errors.

Plus? Because there are some variations not recognized by the catalogues. This exhibit will make a case that these variations be included in catalogues.

## Importance

The overprinted with a “G” were the last Official Stamps in Canada, with the

4 Cameo G overprints being the absolute last ones so used.

The Cameos also make up a large portion of the variations and are among some of the scarcest stamps in Canadian Philately.

Also, the Canadian G overprints MAY be the only official stamps in the world where dual languages are noted by ONE LETTER. Which makes the G variation odd, scarce and an interesting study.

## Organization

The exhibit is organized by type of variation.

Each variation will be described, examples provided, numbers likely in existence, and an estimate of how scarce or rare the item is. and an attempt to explain how or why this variation came to be.

## The Variations:

- \*Variations in Font
- \*Missing “G”
- \*Misaligned “G”
- \*Minor Misalignments
- \*Doubled “G”
- \*Variations in Selvedge
- \*Wide/Narrow Spacing
- \*Major Re-entry

## Challenges

The major challenge was/is with the Cameos where there are many “fakes” in the market. All variations in the Cameo series in this exhibit have certificates.

The second challenge was discovering the reasons why changes happened, or errors occurred. There are many theories, but little substantial facts, and in many cases being able to talk to “someone in the

printing room” is the only way to really know.

The last challenge was simply time, waiting for material come to market.

## Significant Items

There are several items that are amongst the most scarce or rare items in Canadian Official Stamps, and in some cases Canadian Philately.

These include:

10 cent fur drying,  
missing G, 1950

**20 cent Pulp and  
Paper Doubled G,  
1951, UNIQUE**

1 cent brown Cameo,  
doubled G, 1963

2 cent green Cameo  
pair, one missing G

2 cent green Cameo  
wide spacing Block

50 cent textile  
“Fishhook G Upper  
Left Plate Block

For most items an estimate of rarity or scarcity will be made.

## Condition

Most items displayed are Mint Never Hinged, except where there are no examples in that state.

There are also a few used items in Very Good Condition because they offer a unique look or grouping.

Many items have been “certified genuine” by the Greene Foundation or Ken Pugh. These will be noted in the exhibit by **VGG or KP**

## Resources

In assembling this exhibit, I relied on the following resources:

Unitrade Catalogue of  
Canadian Stamps

Canada Cameo  
Definitive Issues, an Exhibit  
by John D. Arn

Various issues in the  
BNA Topics by Ed  
Richardson, Jim Webb, Roy  
Wrigley, K. Bileski, and the  
infamous “U. Knohu”.

Notes from Canada  
Archives

And extensive  
conversations with Ken  
Pugh, John Jamieson, and  
Ian Kimmerly.

And “Lets Talk  
Exhibiting” by David Piercy  
and published by RPSC.

## Personal Notes

Like many aging boomers, I started collecting stamps when I was a young boy, and I loved the activity. It served me well. I always did well in history, social studies, and geography in school because of my stamp collecting.

A few years after completing university, my parents sent my collection to me and I looked at it from time to time, but did nothing with it, until I mostly retired and moved to Victoria. A few years later I looked over what I had and resolved to start again.

I decided to focus on Canada Officials, because it was small and quite discrete and I always had a fascination with that area, maybe because my father worked in the federal Government.

Small and discrete. It is NOT. What I thought would be a few hundred stamps has now grown to several thousand stamps and covers.

I have limited experience in exhibiting but am enthusiastic will try novel solutions and have a

desire to learn and become  
better.