

The Stamps of Canada, Chapter XXIV

The King George V Admiral Issue

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added



On May 6th, 1910, King George V succeeded to the throne but the Dominion of Canada did not take steps towards issuing a series of stamps bearing the portrait of the new monarch until some time later. The 1¢ and 2¢ denominations were recorded in the *Monthly Journal* for January, 1912, so they were doubtless on sale on the 1st day of that month. The other values—5¢, 7¢, 10¢, 20¢ and 50¢—were placed on sale very soon afterwards and we believe the full series was in circulation before the end of January. [Note: as seen above, additional denominations were issued after this column was written in 1915. The 50¢ was previously Scott-listed in gray black as Sc. 120 and black brown as Sc. 121. It is now listed as Sc. 120 in black brown, Sc. 120a in black, and there is no longer a Sc. 121. JFD.]

The new stamps form a highly attractive set and they are without question the handsomest set of “George” stamps issued by any of the British Colonies. The portrait, which shows His Majesty in an admiral’s uniform, three-quarter face to left, is, as the *Monthly Journal* states “the best portrait of King George that has yet appeared on stamps.”

The portrait is contained within an oval above which the words CANADA POSTAGE are curved in bold sans-serif capitals. Below is the value ONE CENT, etc., in words while in each of the lower angles the value is shown in figures on a plain square as in the case of the King Edward stamps. In the upper corners are crowns, again like the King Edward labels, but the treatment of the stamp as a whole is widely dissimilar. The portrait oval is smaller than before so that in

place of the almost microscopical maple leaves shown on the King Edward stamps we now find a spray of these leaves, beautifully drawn, in each of the lower spandrels.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 as before with the usual arrangement of marginal imprint and plate numbers. No record seems to have been made of the plates but that a very large number of the 2¢ at any rate were used is obvious from the high numbers found.

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The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 72

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The 1¢ and 2¢ values show a number of prominent shades. Just a month after the stamps were first chronicled the *Monthly Journal* noted that the 1¢ existed in two distinct shades—"yellow-green and blue-green". In October, 1912, the same journal mentioned the receipt of the 5¢ "in a very markedly altered shade, deep ultramarine instead of the previous deep indigo", while in January, 1913, we read of two very pronounced shades of the 2¢—bright carmine and dull rose-red—in addition to the usual rose-carmine tint. In November, 1913, this denomination was noted in still another striking shade described

as "almost carmine-lake".

In the February, 1913, issue of the *Philatelic Gazette* reference is made to these shades and other varieties as follows:—

Collectors of shades should not fail to secure before it is too late, the interesting series of such varieties in the current King George series of Canada. In the 1 cent stamp four distinct shades are noted and in the 2 cent value no less than ten distinct shades from a pale carmine rose to deep carmine and from a real brick red to a reddish-brown or sienna red.

We illustrate here some of the many shades of the KGV Admiral Issues. Note that color reproduction on newsprint being what it is, the shades will not look as accurate as we would like, but you should at least be able to see relative differences in some if not all colors. Even in the Online version there will be some inaccuracy, depending on the sources we had available, but they will be much more accurate than in print. Note as well that color descriptions also vary, for example the Sc. 104 and 107 "yellow greens" look very different. JFD.



Sc. 104, green; 104c deep blue green; 104 unlisted color, yellow green; 105, yellow

Sc. 107, yellow green; 107c, green



Sc. 106, carmine; 106b, pink; 106c, rose carmine



Sc. 108, brown; 108b, yellow brown



Sc. 109 carmine; 109d, rose carmine



Sc. 110, olive bistre; 110b, olive yellow; 110c, golden yellow; 110d, yellow ochre



Sc. 111 dark blue; 111a, indigo



Sc. 113, yellow ochre; 113a olive bistre; 113b, straw; 113c, deep sage green



Sc. 112, violet

Sc. 114, red brown

Sc. 115, blue

Sc. 116, plum; 116a, reddish purple; 117, blue



Sc. 118, bistre brown; 118b, yellow brown

Sc. 120, black brown; 120a, black

Sc. 122, orange; 122a, deep orange



Sc. 119, olive green; 119b, sage green;



119c, dark olive green; 119d, grey green

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The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 73

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Several "errors" or "freaks of printing" have appeared, mostly in the early impressions, caused probably by the rush and push of the printers in trying to meet the large demand. I have noted the following and believe they will be of interest to collectors:

1 Cent.—An accent between CANADA and POSTAGE; also accents between N and D of CANADA.

2 Cent.—The same varieties may be found on the 2 cent stamp printed from plate one.

2 Cent.—On plate two there appeared on the 97th stamp on the plate a marked accent on the C of CENTS (right, on Sc. 106).



Although not mentioned in the original article, we present here a few other recognized Admiral Issue varieties. JFD.



Sc. 106, left with normal numeral 2s, right with thin 2s

2 Cent.—In February, 1912, some few sheets were issued, having the red horizontal guide lines running across the stamps. These were printed from unfinished plates from which the guide lines had not been removed. They are easily distinguished, having the lines about 2 millimeters apart running across every stamp on the sheet. The lines are very plain where they run through the figures of value.



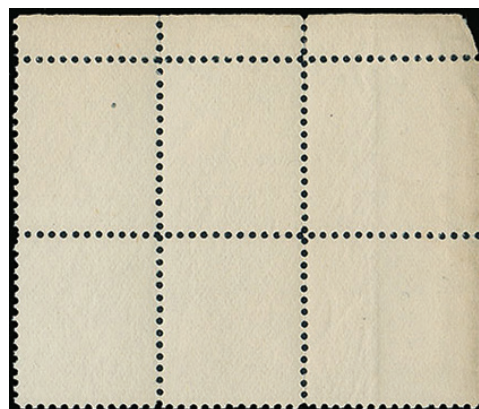
On this sheet corner margin Sc. 111, I have added black dashes to extend the blue horizontal hairlines. Online readers, for a closer look, including in the numeral 5 boxes, you can use your pdf magnifier. JFD.

The variety last described is a very interesting one which may also be found in connection with the 1¢ denomination. To term them guide-lines and prints from "unfinished plates" is, however, quite incorrect. Such guide-lines as are marked on a plate are only placed vertically or horizontally to correspond with the top or bottom or one of the sides of the stamp design. The lines, which we are now considering, appear comparatively close together though they are not equi-distant, as the above description would lead us to imagine, nor are they always parallel or straight. They are undoubtedly due to some inherent defects in the plates. Possibly, in the rush to finish sufficient plates to cope with the demand for the new stamps some of them were hardened too quickly with the result that the surfaces cracked.

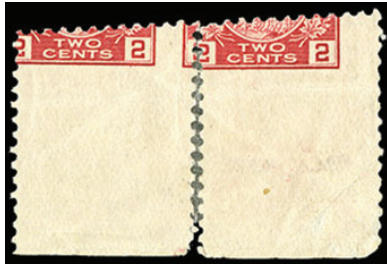
These defective plates were certainly among the earliest ones used and judging by the scarcity of the stamps showing these peculiarities they were not in use long before they were discarded.



Sc. 120 block of four with large perforation holes vertically and smaller ones horizontally,



The "unprinted" blank Admiral stamps on stamp paper with full original gum and never hinged in a margin block of four. Purportedly ten sheets were found by a postmaster intermittently mixed in with other regularly printed 1¢ green sheets. It is thought that they were perhaps stuck to the sheet above when printed and perforated, or used for "spacing" or "stacking" purposes and not subsequently removed.



Sc. 106 rejoined misperforated bottom margin pair.



Sc. 109 upper right corner margin block of eight showing strong band of red plate edge inking at top, caused by improperly wiped plate.



Sc. 118 Imperf block of eight, one of many imperfs for various denominations.
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The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 74

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The 1¢ and 2¢ values of this series were issued in coil form for use in automatic vending machines. These were first issued in November, 1912, perf 8 vertically and imperforate at top and bottom. In October, 1913, the 1¢ was issued perf 8 horizontally and imperforate at the sides and shortly afterwards the 2¢ appeared in the same way. These coil stamps show quite a number of distinct shades. The 1¢ in coil form was also issued with the 12 perforation at top and bottom and imperforate at the sides.

Although not mentioned in the original article, as some were issued later, we present here all of the Admirals coils. JFD.

*2¢ rose carmine
Experimental Coil
Paste-Up pair, Sc.
124 variety*



Left to right, 1913 perf 8, Sc. 123, 124; 1915 perf 12, Sc. 131, 134



Top top bottom:
1913 perf 8 1¢ green, Sc. 125
1913 perf 8 1¢ yellow, Sc. 126
1924 perf 8 3¢ type I, Sc. 130
There are no perf 12 vertically
Admiral coils.



1¢ green perf 12 coil
pair with Plate No.
A2 on top tab, Sc.
131 variety

To facilitate separation in vending machines, in 1918 two large holes were added to the perf 12 horizontally coils, but that experiment failed. Genuine examples are scarce; right, Sc. 131 variety.



3¢ unsevered coil
(wet printing)
Gutter block of
12, Sc. 130 variety

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Although not mentioned in the original article, as some were issued later, we present here all of the Admirals coils. JFD.



Scott 104a, booklet pane of 6



Scott 106a, booklet pane of 6



Scott 105a, booklet pane of 4



Scott 107b, booklet pane of 4, still with margin markings



Scott 105b, booklet pane of 6



Scott 107c, booklet pane of 6

Scott 107c variety,
uncut tete-beche pane
of 12



Scott 109a, booklet pane of 4



Scott 109a variety, uncut tete-beche pane of 8

Scott 109b variety,
uncut tete-beche pane
of 12



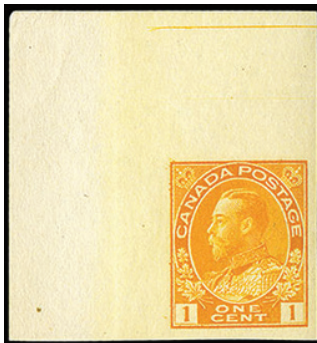
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Although not mentioned in the original article, as some were issued later, we present here the 1924 Admirals Imperfs. These are the same stamps that were printed for perforation and conversion to sheet stamps and coils, but they were issued for sale to the public between 1924 and 1926. JFD.

1¢ yellow Imperforate, Sc. 136, upper left corner margin single showing guideline in top margin



2¢ green Imperforate, Sc. 137, top margin strip of four showing complete "T-8-OTTAWA-No-A 188 (PO) 910-BF" Imprint.



3¢ carmine Imperforate, Sc. 138, left margin block of four with full Pyramid Guide Arrow (and phantom one repeated below).