

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 86

## The 1917 Confederation Issue

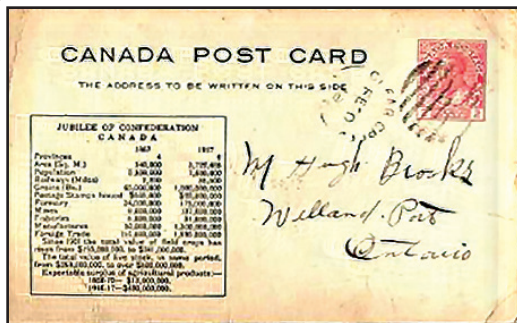
*Based on Mekeel's Weekly 1917 and Other Reports*

*With this issue we no longer have the benefit of Bertram Poole's 1915 study. I will continue with this and subsequent Canada issues, working from contemporary reports in Mekeel's, supplemented by other information that is available in the public domain. JFD.)*

August 25, 1917

CANADA. Mr. Geo. A. Hall sends us a clipping from a Canadian newspaper...

"A correspondent calls attention to the fact that on the last issue of Dominion



*The Confederation Card with population of each Province in 1867 and 1917.*

postcards (2¢) the left half front of the card is taken up with statistics of Canada. The correspondent claims that this space belongs to the person who bought the card, and he is deprived of it, or to put it in another way, the postmaster general, without asking consent of parliament, has practically raised the price of postage on cards."

September 29, 1917

CANADA.-(1387)-Thanks to Mr. O. Kendall, we are in receipt of the 3¢ Commemorative stamp (issued in Winnipeg on Sept. 14). The stamp is issued to commemorate the semi-centennial of the formation of the Canadian Confederation, and it bears, as the chief part of its design, a miniature engraving of Harris E. Plinting's painting, "Fathers of Confederation." The new stamp is handsome in design and construction, and the only fault to be found with it is that there is nothing on it to indicate what the picture in the center is...



The new stamps are printed in sheets of two hundred and are divided into four post office panes of fifty each with fourteen straight edge stamps to each pane of fifty-five by ten. The plate number on the new stamps that we have seen is "Ottawa No. A3."

October 27, 1917

CANADA.-(1396)-Mr. Wentworth F. Gantt, noting our chronicle of the 3¢ Confederation commemorative and the statement that the picture on it is taken from Harris E. Plinting's painting, writes: "I have at present a picture of this painting, which says that it is by Robert Harris. I have inquired at the City Library about it and they tell me that they find no trace either man but are under the impression that Plinting is an engraver."

We are inclined to believe that Robert Harris is the artist who painted the "Fathers of Confederation", as the newspaper despatch from Ottawa, published in our issue of July 21st stated that the new stamp would have an engraved "reproduction of Harris' painting."

Mr. Gerald Mongeon informs us that his inquiries brought the information from the authorities that the Confederation stamp would only

be on sale for three or four months. Mr. Mongeon, also informs us that the stamps are printed in sheets of two hundred, which are then divided into panes of fifty stamps each, and that the plate number only occurs once in the plate, being under the stamps in the lower left pane of fifty.



November 17, 1917

CANADA.-Mr. Geo. N. Hargraft writes that he has a copy of the picture, "Fathers of Confederation", underneath which the words "After the painting by Robert Harris" appear. Mr. Hargraft sends us the enlightening information that our correspondent's statement in the October 27th Chronicle, that the plate number appears under the lower left pane only, is incorrect. That he has a lower right pane with plate number A4. We take it upon our own shoulders to state that the only plate number we had seen was A3. Whether plate No. A4 comes with more than the one plate number, elsewhere than under the right lower pane (image added) we cannot state.



*To Be Continued*

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 87

## The 1927 Confederation Issue

*Based on Mekeel's Weekly 1917 and Other Reports*

(No longer having the benefit of Bertram Poole's 1915 study, we will continue with subsequent Canada issues, working from contemporary reports in Mekeel's, supplemented by other information that is available in the public domain. What follows for the 1927 Confederation issue is a combination of six different short pieces in various 1927 Mekeel's issues. JFD.)

The special issue of Jubilee Confederation postage stamp is now being printed and will be available by the first of July, the date of the



60th anniversary of Dominion Confederation. [The stamps ultimately were issued June 29, 1927. JFD.] The stamps [Sc. 141-145, E3] will be in six denominations. The one-cent



stamp in an orange color will bear the head of



As mentioned in our coverage for that stamp, the 1917 Confederation stamp, Sc. 135, left out a portion of the right side of the Harris painting. The 2¢ 1927 issue, Sc. 142, shows the complete set of delegates.

Sir John A. Macdonald. The two-cent stamp in a green color will carry the famous picture of the Fathers of Confederation. The three-cent stamp in red bears a picture of the centre block of the Parliament Buildings. The five-cent will be in purple and will show the head of Sir Wilfred Laurier. The ten-cent stamp will be blue, illustrating a map of Canada. The twenty-cent stamp will be a red color and will show the progress of five stages of mail transportation in Canada. Unless any last minute alterations are made it will be noted that neither His Majesty King George the Fifth in whose reign the sixtieth anniversary is taking place, nor that of Her Majesty Queen Victoria in whose reign the Confederation was consummated appear on either denomination of this series, intended it is believed, only as a special commemorative issue and not permanent.

"...a clipping from the *Hamiiton Spectator* regarding the issue of the new Canadian postage stamps to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Confederation of Canada reads: "Postmaster-General Veniot is issuing a special series of postage stamps to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. They will be larger than the normal issues and will depict the development of the Dominion, the expansion of its

transportation systems and various phases of the nation's industries and resources. It is stated the stamps will bring joy not only to philatelists, but to the public generally."

The 1¢ and 5¢ are of small size measuring 210 x 25mm, while the 2¢, 3¢ and 12¢ are of large format similar in size to the 1917 issue. The 20¢ is of upright format in the same size as the last mentioned. Each value has the word "Confederation" at the top with figures "1867" to the left and "1927" to the right. Values of the stamps appear in the two lower corners with "Cents" between. On each stamp except the 20¢ the left panel has "Postes" while the right carries "Post." The 20¢ below the name of the country has "Special Express."

The Confederation Celebration Committee have gone on record as favouring bi-lingual stamps and the Postmaster General has issued instructions for their printing. An active propaganda by use of stickers on letters emanating from Quebec, the capital of the French Province of Canada, has been going on for quite a while and the opinion at Ottawa is that with a French Canadian Postmaster General and a French Canadian Deputy Postmaster General and Post Office staff which is being rapidly filled with French Canadians, the postage stamps of Canada will henceforth be printed in dual language.

Prior to 1867, the various provinces which now constitute the Dominion issued their own postage stamps all in English. Since Confederation, the Dominion issues have with the exception of the Quebec Tercentenary all been in English.

Hon. P. J. Veniot, Dominion Postmaster-General...in reply to a question as to whether it was the intention of the Government to continue the issue of bilingual stamps in the future, stated that the Jubilee



Plate blocks of six and eight of the 1¢ (Sc. 141a imperf), 2¢ (Sc. 142) and the 20¢ Special Delivery (Sc. E3)

Committee had passed a unanimous resolution in favour of the issue of bilingual stamps for the 60th anniversary of Confederation, but that "so far as their being for the future is... a matter for consideration."

The 1¢ to 12¢ stamps on a Registered cover with Kitchener, Ont. Jun 29 27 cancel, the first day of issue.



An FDC with an ornate border and the 2¢ Confederation issue paying the domestic rate.



A Registered Special Delivery cover with 1¢ pair, 2¢ and 12¢ issues and the 20¢ paying the Special Delivery fee.



Imperf pairs all around of the 1¢ and 3¢ (Sc. 141a, 143a) and a 12¢ imperf horizontally pair (Sc. 145c)



Left, 20¢ Black, Special Delivery, Small Die Proof (Unitrade E3TC); right, imperf horizontally pair (E3c); below, imperf all around pair (E3a)



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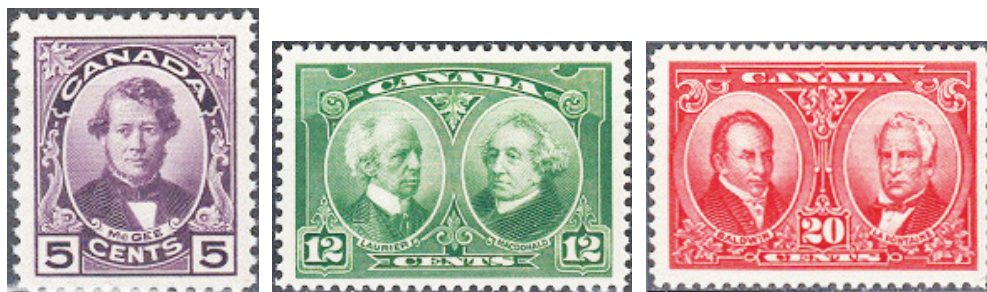


# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 88

## The 1927 Historical Issue

*Based on Mekeel's Weekly and Other Reports*

In addition to the Canadian Confederation 60th Anniversary issue, Sc. 141-145, covered in our previous installment, there were three other stamps issued on the same day as the Confederation issue, June 29, 1927. These three stamps had been prepared for release in 1926, but were withheld until 1927, and are known as the Historical Issue.



12¢ Historical, Sc. 147, Large Die Proof on India die sunk on card, die number XG148, with Canadian Bank Note Co. stamp on back (inset), dated July 19, 1926.

Although that has not been given as the reason for the delay, officials may have decided that it was in keeping with the Confederation theme that was coming in 1927.

Further supporting this theory, the 12¢ stamp duplicated two of the subjects on the Confederation 60th Anniversary Issue—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir John Macdonald.

The 5¢ depicted Thomas d'Arcy McGee, whose efforts as one of the Fathers of Confederation in 1867 earned him the title, "Canada's first nationalist."

The 20¢ pictured Robert Baldwin and Sir Louis Hipolyte Lafontaine, who together led the country to "Responsible Government" and democratic independence.

As these were planned and designed in 1926, before postal officials decided to produce bilingual stamps, they only show the English "Post", unlike the Confederation Issue that bears the French "Postes" as well as "Post."

It should be noted, as well, that a die proof was prepared for the Laurier / Macdonald stamp with a 10¢ value, but it was issued instead as a 12¢ stamp, intended for use on local registered letters.

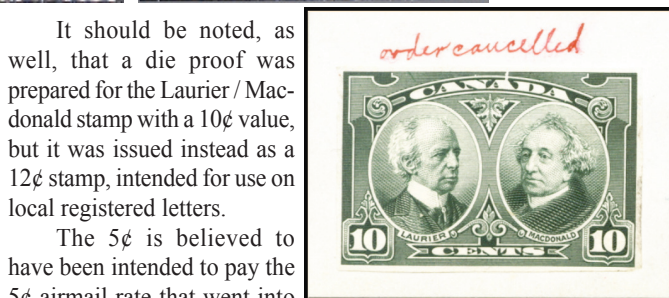
The 5¢ is believed to have been intended to pay the 5¢ airmail rate that went into effect on August 24, 1928, but such usages are scarce, as a 5¢ airmail stamp was issued on September 21, 1928.

The 20¢ denomination was designed for parcel use or for special delivery use, although such usages are hard to find.

The stamps were printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co. Two plates were used to print each value, numbered A1 and A2. Totals issued were: 5¢ 20,349,000; 12¢ 5,273,000; and 20¢ 7,632,000.

As with other issues from this era, imperfs exist:

Fully imperfed all around have a



small "a" variety suffix, as for example the Sc. 148a on our front cover;

Imperf vertically have a "b" suffix, as for example the Sc. 146b above left;

Imperf horizontally have a "c" suffix, as the Sc. 147c at right.

At [canadianphilately.blogspot.com/2016/07/the-historical-issue-of-1927.html](http://canadianphilately.blogspot.com/2016/07/the-historical-issue-of-1927.html) it is stated that 250 of each pair were produced.

*To Be Continued*

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 89

## The 1928-29 Scroll Issue

By A. I. Lawrence (From Mekeel's Weekly, Feb. 11, 1929, with images added)

The writer has just received a complete set of the latest general issue of these stamps, as follows: [the lower values] 1-cent, orange; 2-cent, green; 3-cent, carmine; 5-cent, violet, and 8-cent, blue—all of the same design—the head of King George in three-fourths full face, about 18 by 22 millimetres. The higher values vary in design, and are particularly interesting; they are as follows:

10-cent, green; landscape view in the Canadian Rockies; the composition speaks well for the artist who designed it.

The 12-cent, gray-black in color, shows a view of the new Quebec bridge across the St. Lawrence River. This stamp is of interest to the engineer as it shows the construction of the bridge members very clearly.

The 20-cent, carmine, has for its subject a landscape view in the western Canadian wheat fields, showing a trans continental railroad train in the middle distance with background of mountains.

The 50-cent, in a blue color, is the gem of the lot; a marine view of two Canadian fishing vessels under full sail; evidently racing, as a marking buoy is shown, to the windward, in the middle distance. This stamp is the handsomest



A set of Scroll Issue Proofs, Sc. 149P-161P

one, from any country, that has been issued for years, and should be very popular with everyone who loves the sea; it is correct too as regards positions of the vessels in the wind, positions of sails, rigging, etc., which is too often not the case in the marine artist's work.

The \$1.00 stamp is in an olive-green color and is quite architectural in its design, showing a front elevation of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa—this is the only stamp of the lot with a more or less duplicate design—it is very similar to that of the 3-cent stamp of the Diamond Jubilee set of June 29, 1927. These higher values are oblong in shape, 34 by 23 millimetres in size.

This set of stamps is particularly noticeable throughout for the fine designs, accuracy and truthfulness of details, modesty and good taste in colors, and splendid execution. In a scroll across the top is the word CANADA, and across the bottom of each design the word CENTS, or DOLLAR in the highest value. All, excepting only the 20-cent and one dollar values, have the values in figures in each bottom corner of the stamp; the 20 cent and one dollar stamps have values in figures at sides of these stamps, midway between the top and bottom of the design.

All the designs show the word (small capitals) Post, in both English and French. Canada may well be proud of this postal issue.

In addition to the sheet stamps, the Scrolls also were issued in coils, Sc. 160-161; and 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ booklet panes of 6, Sc. 149a, 150a and, shown, Sc. 153a.



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