

# **Synopsis**

## **Canadian 1949-1951 Definitive Issue**

### An exhibit of stamp design, issues, rates and usages

#### **Purpose**

This is a study of the 1949-1951 King George VI issue of Canada from the period November 15 1949 to April 30 1953. The issue also known as *Postes-Postage* shows stamps “with” and “without” Postes-Postage. The exhibit covers mainly production material, usages and rates for the period 1949-1953

#### **Background**

Following the World War II, Canada wanted to return to an image of King George VI in civilian clothing for its stamps. These were planned for release on June 16, 1949 to honour the King’s birthday, however it was felt that the words Postes and Postage should be included to reflect Canada’s bilingual nature. These words had been left off to simplify the design. A new series was prepared with the words included and released on November 15, 1949 – known as the “revised design”. It was then announced that since a number of the original “unrevised” design had been prepared they would be released for sale in January 1950. Colour changes in keeping with the requirements of the UPU were issued in 1951. Only the 2c and 4c were issued. Plans were laid to release new colours of other denominations but the death of the King on February 6, 1951 put an end to those plans. The effective last day of this issue is April 30 1953 since definitive stamps of Queen Elizabeth were issued on May 1 1953.

#### **Scope**

The exhibit introduces this issue and includes the revised and unrevised design and colour changes depicted. This Plate blocks also shows the Control numbers which are discussed. Each denomination of stamp is then followed by a series of examples using that stamp Booklets, coils, official, and precancels are discussed. Rates and usages of both surface and air mail are given to illustrate the extent of coverage.

Many exhibitors have exhibited the releases of these issues as narrow windows for with Postes/Postage and without Postes/Postage, and then new colour issues; however, when considering the release dates of various plates, the “with” Postes/Postage stamps are easily shown to extend throughout the study period, including the release of new plates after the King’s death in February 1952.

#### **Exhibit History**

This exhibit received a National Vermeil at Novapex 2010 and Novapex 2012 and has been reorganized and expanded.

#### **Organization of the Exhibit**

The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Frame 1: Pre-production and production material, Regular Issue 1¢ to 4¢ plates, varieties and single usages
- Frame 2: Regular Issue 4¢ to 5¢ plates, varieties and single usages; Booklets; Coils
- Frame 3: Officials; Precancels; Surface Rates - Domestic 1st Class
- Frame 4: Surface Rates - Domestic; International
- Frame 5: Air Mail Rates - Domestic; International

#### **Material Availability**

Only a small number of sheets of the 4c revised colour change Plate 6 were printed before the plate broke (BNA 1955). Covers are common in the domestic and United States material. Rates to foreign destinations

are abundant however this issue is more commonly found as a make-up to an airmail rate than a surface rate to foreign destinations.

### **Highlights**

Ellwood (2006) and Godfrey (2006) discussed the 4c revised colour change and could not find any stamps or covers cancelled prior to August 30 1951 even though this stamp was issued on July 25, 1951 (LAC 2016; Unitrade 2015). This exhibit shows an Aug 15 1951 cancel on this stamp (red border). A dramatic ink smear is shown also for this stamp in a block of 8. (Red border)

Die proofs of this series are available, however in limited quantity. The black and blue 5¢ die proofs are shown – one of six documented copies of this type. Acknowledgement of Receipt cards are known to be used but are rarely seen.

Other items of significance are indicated with a red dot.

### **References**

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