



Stamps

by Larry McInnis

New Definitive Stamps A Challenge For Collectors

Canada's April 1 postage rate hike resulted in a number of new definitive stamps that should prove to be an inexpensive challenge to collectors.

The first stamp issued at the new 36-cent domestic rate is a good example, as I'll explain.

Definitives are stamps that are in service for a long period of time. It is quite common for them to be

reprinted, often by a different printer than the original, and often on a different paper.

Let me give you a definitive example, if you'll pardon that terrible, but unintentional, pun:

The first stamp in the low-value "Heritage Artifacts" series was the 1-cent (Scott 917) duck decoy issued Oct. 19, 1982. It was printed by Ashton-Potter of

Toronto on paper supplied by Abitibi-Price Ltd.

The stamp was reprinted Jan. 10, 1985 by Canadian Bank Note Co. on paper supplied by Harrison & Sons Ltd. of Britain. Canadian Bank Note did another reprinting Aug. 6, 1985, using paper supplied by Clark Paper International, also of Britain. The fourth and final printing was July 4, 1986, this time by the original printer, Ashton-Potter, but using paper supplied by Rolland Paper of Quebec.

The new 36-cent definitive shows the Parliament Buildings from behind with trees in autumn colors (although the stamp was issued March 30, a week after spring was sprung),

printed by Canadian Bank Note Co.

What makes it interesting is that it's available on two papers, one from Harrison and one from Rolland.

How can you tell, you ask? Well, if you have a corner block (or plate block), it's easy. The selvage has the usual "traffic lights" or color registration marks, but some have the letter H for Harrison paper and some have R for Rolland.

It's a little more difficult with individual stamps and you may need several, or a bunch, for comparison: those with the whiter paper are on Rolland, the slightly duller paper is Harrison.

The coil stamps issued in mid-May in monocolour,

showing the Parliament Buildings from the rear, are on Rolland paper. Printer is Canadian Bank Note.

Just before the rate change, a five-stamp booklet was issued, with two 1-cent stamps, two 6-cent stamps and one 36-cent stamp showing the Parliament Buildings — and a non-postal tab that says "The stamps of Canada — worth collecting."

The printer was British-American Bank Note Inc., which hasn't been too involved in Canadian stamp printing of late. The paper is from Rolland.

Two booklets were issued, one containing ten 36-cent Parliament stamps in full color, issued on March 30, and one containing twenty-

five of the same 36-cent stamps issued in mid-May. All were printed by Ashton-Potter Ltd. of Toronto, on Rolland paper.

The rate change and the spate of new issues brought four new, unexpected additions to the "Heritage Artifacts" series.

They are a 25-cent showing a butter stamp (not a postage stamp but rather a seal), a 42-cent showing a linen chest, a 55-cent depicting an iron kettle and a 72-cent showing a hand-drawn cart.

The printer of the latest "Heritage" quartet is Ashton-Potter.

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