



Stamps

by Larry McInnis

When Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson married last July 23, they were already the subject of hundreds of stamps issued by countries around the world, not all of them in the British Commonwealth; 12 Commonwealth members noted the wedding.

Canada did not issue a stamp, although Britain marked the event with two stamps issued July 22, the day before the actual wedding.

The stamps, one 12-pence and one 17-pence, show the same basic design, by Jeffrey Matthews; the young couple in a relaxed mood, from a photograph taken by Gene Nocon, a friend of Prince Andrew.

At the base of the 17-pence stamp Prince Andrew's rank in the Royal

Navy is noted with the insignia of a lieutenant. His father, Prince Phillip, was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy as he prepared to marry Princess Elizabeth in 1947.

You may be surprised to know that the 1947 royal wedding was postally ignored by Britain.

Canada, however, did issue a stamp, and so did Australia, the only two Commonwealth countries to do so.

Although the wedding of Elizabeth and Philip took place on Nov. 20, 1947, the Canadian stamp was not issued until Feb. 16, 1948 (Scott 276) and that was a delay from the planned release date, Jan. 15.

The Australian stamp was a 1-pence (Scott 210) issued on the wedding day.

If you didn't know the wedding date, you wouldn't know the purpose of the stamp. It shows Elizabeth alone and the inscription refers only to her: "H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth."

There is no reason for the stamp's issue given in the Scott Standard catalogue.

Canada's is a four-cent blue, with the same portrait. The stamp's inscription doesn't explain why it was issued, but at least it's explained in the catalogue.

The designs used were from a portrait by Dorothy Wilding.

Britain's only recognition of the event was a special cancel showing wedding bells, for use on Nov. 20.

Of course that oversight was not to occur in Britain again, or anywhere else - except Canada.

The next royal wedding was that of Prince Anne to Capt. Mark Phillips. (For the trivia buffs, an army captain is equivalent to a naval lieutenant).

Britain issued two stamps on the day of the wedding, Nov. 14, 1973 (Scott 707-8). Canada passed. So did Australia.

The event was marked by 22 of the smaller Commonwealth issuing entities, for a total of 44 stamps, all using a common design.

Such issues have become known as omnibus issues, in that a large number of stamps are issued by a large number of entities on a single subject.

The run-up to the next royal wedding occurred at the same time as the great philatelic market bubble, 1980-82. The omnibus issues were in their heyday.

The wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer on July 29, 1981, brought out 96 stamps from 54 Commonwealth entities by the end of 1982.

Canada did not issue a stamp. Britain did, three of them, on July 22, exactly a week before the wedding (Scott 224-6). The Scott Standard catalogue lists the issue date as July 29, which is incorrect.

The Prince Charles-Lady Diana wedding, the fact that her 21st birthday was a year after the wedding, then the birth of their two sons, William and Henry, spawned hundreds of stamps in as many configurations, souvenir sheets, and every other form of philatelic issue.

Other countries have jumped on the omnibus bandwagon, many with no connection to British royalty, such as North Korea, which is not listed in the Scott catalogue, a U.S. publication.

Stamp issuers may have a wait for the next British royal wedding, that of Prince Edward, and it will be a long time before the second in line to the British throne will marry, the young Prince William.

Letters
Letters are invited. Please send enquiries to the writer at P.O. Box 40, Beauharnois, Quebec, J6N 3C1.



Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes

CRTC

NOTICE

CRTC - Public Notice 1987-19. The Commission has received the following application: 1. MARATHON, MANITOUWADGE, RED ROCK/NIPIGON, TERRACE BAY, WAWA AND WHITE RIVER, Ont. Applications (862271400, 862272200, 862274800, 862275500, 862273000, 862276300) by **LAKESHORE COMMUNITY TELEVISION LIMITED**, 236 MacDonald Ave., Terrace Bay, Ont., P0T 2W0, to amend the licences for the broadcasting receiving undertakings serving the above-mentioned localities, by adding a specific condition of licence authorized it to act as a Part III licensee under the Cable Regulations 1986. Examination of applications: Municipal Offices in each of the above-mentioned localities.

The complete text of this notice and the application may be viewed at CRTC, Central Building, Les Terrasses de las Chaudiere, 1 Promenade du Portage, Room 561, Hull, Quebec.

Interventions must be filed with the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N2, with proof that a copy has been served on the applicant on or before **24 February 1987**. For more information you may also call the CRTC Public Hearings Branch at (819) 997-1328 or 997-1027, CRTC Information Services in Hull at (819) 997-0313.

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