

1917 Confederation Stamp and Covers

The stamp was issued to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with the province of Canada. The stamp was not without controversy—the image on the stamp was truncated from the original painting. From a philatelic perspective the stamp is significant since it was the first commemorative size stamp issued in a number of years.

Over 98 million were printed and went on sale Sept. 15, 1917. The Unitrade catalogue notes two colors, brown and dark brown; the supply in Ottawa was exhausted a few months later.

Shown below is the 5 Hole OHMS Variety. The OHMS example is an interesting and elusive stamp listed in Unitrade. Genuineness was checked with criteria in Pugh's Reference Manual book, BNA Fakes Forgeries and Counterfeits. Since 5 hole OHMS stamps first appeared in 1923 many years after the issuance of the 1917 stamp, there could be a question, even though listed in Unitrade, as to whether the OHMS variety was inspired by philately.



Imperforate copies are the major variety—a block is in the exhibit. The exhibitor's research summarized in the exhibit apparently resulted in a change in the Unitrade listing of the number released of the imperforate from 100 pairs to 200 pairs. A few minor varieties in addition to an imperforate block are shown in the exhibit. Other stamps shown include shades, perfins, various cancels as well as larger multiples.

The stamps, like the admirals of the same time frame, saw numerous usages and rates. Covers shown include various basic and registered rates to the US and Canada as well as preferred rate covers and cancelations. Also included are Commonwealth and UPU mailings to diverse countries and special delivery mailings as well as overpaid and short paid covers. All covers are in period, 1917 or 1918.

References: Include BNA Topics, whole number 502 page 7 and number 534 page 8, Canada...Rates..by Smith and Wawrukiewicz, The Admiral Era, Steinhart, Confederation Stamp of 1917, Pop Stamps, Jan 1949, Cat of Canadian Railway Cancellations, Ross Gray, Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, BNAPS, Steel Engraved...Varieties and Admiral Cancels, Reiche, Flag Cancellations, Richardson, Meekel's 7/26/1919, The Standard Texts—Boggs, Jarrett, Patrick....

SYNOPSIS

1917 CONFEDERATION STAMP AND COVERS

The intent of the exhibit is to address diverse aspects of this single stamp issued in 1917.

The exhibit starts with the stamp including shades, perfins, minor varieties, an OHMS copy, a full pane, a plate block and the imperforate included as a block. The exhibit continues to the exhibitors research, reported in TOPICS , that apparently resulted in a change in the Unitrade listing of the number released of the imperforate variety from 100 pairs to 200 pairs.

The exhibit continues to covers including various basic and registered rates to the US and Canada as well as preferred rate covers and cancellations. Also included are Commonwealth and UPU mailings to diverse countries and special delivery mailings as well as overpaid and short paid covers. Covers are in period, 1917 and 1918.

Items of interest include the imperforate which is inherently scarce, particularly as a block since most copies have been cut into pairs. Surprisingly given the many copies of the perforated 1917 Confederation stamp issued by the post office, unusual covers are also somewhat scarce. For instance many more admiral covers from the same time period show up in the marketplace.

References: Include BNA Topics number 502 page 7 and number 534 page 8; Canada...Rates by Smith and Wawrukiewicz; The Admiral Era by Steinhart; Confederation Stamp of 1917, Pop Stamps, Jan 1949; Steel Engraved...Varieties and Admiral Cancels by Reiche; Meekel's 7/26/1919; Cat of Canadian Railway Cancellations, Ross Gray; Canadian Stamps With Perforated Initials, BNAPS; Also the standard texts including---Boggs, Jarrett, Patrick.... .