

THE MAPLE LEAF FLAG

The Maple Leaf Flag of Canada was officially inaugurated on February 15, 1965, which is considered its birth date. Prior to that, the Red Ensign was Canada's flag by common observance, but no statute law had ever been passed authorizing it. This exhibit has a selection of philatelic material depicting the Maple Leaf flag as the primary subject.

Plan Of The Exhibit.

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| 1 - The origin of the Maple Leaf flag. | 8 - Flag stamps: Commemoratives. |
| 2 - The first Maple Leaf flag stamp. | 9 - Government use. |
| 3 - The Centennial Maple Leaf flag stamp. | 10 - Private use: commercial. |
| 4 - Peel-and-stick Maple Leaf flag stamps. | 11 - Private use: political and artistic. |
| 5 - Flag Over stamps: Until the Millennium. | 12 - Forgeries. |
| 6 - Flag Over stamps: Since the Millennium. | 13 - Foreign stamps depicting Maple Leaf Flag |
| 7 - Flag Over stamps: UNESCO landscapes. | |

SYNOPSIS: MAPLE LEAF FLAG

This exhibit is an overview of how the Maple Leaf flag was depicted on Canadian stamps after its creation in 1965. It only shows major design elements, not stamps where the flag can only be seen on a flagpole with a magnifier, stylized maple leaves but not as flags, etcetera. Interestingly, the Red Ensign was never commemorated as such, although it appears as a background element on some stamps.

The Maple Leaf flag was not popular with Canada Post until about the time of the Québec referendum. The designs of the definitives are obviously based on the American Flag Over series. The peel-and-stick stamps mark an era of transition as Canada Post moved to a new era of printing.

The exhibit is an introduction and summary, not a detailed study. A few samples of varieties and forgeries are shown to illustrate what is available in this topic but a full work-up would take many frames and only bore the average viewer. Section 7 shows the Flag Under UNESCO landscape stamps, one of which, the Hoodoos stamp, became the first Canadian stamp in history to be recalled by Canada Post. Because the stamp was only on sale for four days, it is rare.