

## Purpose of the Exhibit

The 1967 Centennial issue is the most complex modern Canadian definitive issue. It was current at a time of great advances in stamp printing technology (e.g. the use of more colors) and automation of mail sorting (e.g. the need for phosphor tagging bars). Coupled with this was the rapid inflation in the cost of mailing a letter resulting in the need for more denominations. Further complicating matters, the Centennial period was characterized by relatively poor quality control in the selection of paper for stamp production as well as printing quality at the stamp printer, British American Bank Note Co. (although not nearly as bad as during the subsequent "Caricature Issue" period).

This exhibit focuses solely on the booklets issued as a convenience to the public during the Centennial era. The booklets were produced both for vending machines and over the counter sale.

## Challenge Factor

All of the basic Centennial booklets are readily available. However, quality control of the stamp paper was very lax resulting in a wide array of paper types when viewed with a long wave ultraviolet lamp. In addition some booklet cover stock also varied in quality. Thus considerable emphasis in a Centennial booklet study is an examination of the paper. Several researchers have tried to devise standardization tables for color and brightness under ultraviolet light. While "dead" and "Hibrite" are relatively easy to distinguish, the four fluorescent levels of dull, low, medium and high are quite subjective and can vary considerably in different environments. Some students have broken down each of these categories into sub-categories but I do not subscribe to this level of analysis. The interplay of paper and ink can have significant effects on the stamp color when viewed under UV. In addition, with the passage of time changes in the brightener chemicals can affect the fluorescence level. I have tried to define major variations (as I see them) and these are identified on the exhibit pages although a UV lamp and very darkened room would be required to see the variations. In some lighting situations the degree of whiteness of the paper can be seen with the naked eye. While it is a challenge to find the various paper types, this also creates a serious challenge in displaying a Centennial exhibit. I have approached this by simply identifying the fluorescence on the exhibit page and the judges can remove any pages to confirm. While distinguishing the levels of fluorescence is subjective, the major fluorescence levels can be identified with practice. The second and most interesting challenge is searching out all the printed variations. These can vary from "fly-specks" to truly major varieties. A third challenge concerns display of the phosphor tagging bands. I have elected to show these on scanned images of the panes.

## What is presented

The exhibit is limited to unused booklets with one major exception – for the 6¢ black hibrite pane of 25 the used pane is presented in addition to an unused pane as these are the key items of any Centennial collection. Shown are all the printings, in depth study of the papers, all major varieties and representatives of worn plates and minor variations. The pre-production material available is the British American Bank Note trial printings known as the "Baby-Sisters". An extensive representation of this material is presented including the very rare multicolored pane and the trial booklet. The emphasis is on the stamp panes and while there is a representative display of the booklet covers and counting marks, this is not extensive due to space constraints. No attempt has been made to describe the usage of the booklet stamps as a study of the postal history of these stamps would require several additional frames.

All the key items as recorded by McCann and Harris (see references) are presented as well as many unrecorded varieties. Several paper types are quite rare as are a number of booklet errors and these command high prices at auction.

Note that a \$1.50 booklet of the 6¢ black pane 25 miscut similar to the 6¢ orange pane is listed in some catalogues. At a discussion of Centennial collectors at a recent BNAPEX meeting no one had ever seen a copy or heard of a copy offered for sale. This listing might be an error.

## Research and Personal Study

The Centennial issue of Canada has been intensively studied by philatelists and is the most thoroughly researched modern issue. Extensive monographs have been published with the most detailed published by Robin Harris in 2000. Nonetheless research can be done to uncover printing variations and booklet preparation and many examples are shown in the exhibit. An earlier version of this exhibit received a BNAPS Research Award.

## History of the Exhibit

A version of the exhibit was last shown at BNAPS 2012 in Calgary where it received a Vermeil award. The previous version of this exhibit simply followed the standard catalogue format *i.e.* following booklets Bk54 to Bk71 in catalogue sequence. This did not tell a story. This exhibit has been completely re-organized into eight logical chapters as detailed on the title page. Some aspects have been condensed to fit into 7 frames. Several new very scarce items have been added.

## Significant items

Items of special interest are framed in magenta and these include:

- Fr1 pg9-12 Selected BNAPS pre-production items
- Fr2 pg7 25¢ Bk59 with security numbers'
- Fr2 pg10 25¢ booklet overprinted CANCELLED
- Fr2 pg13 25¢ Bk62 with security numbers
- Fr3 pg14 "2 booklets of" overprint test marketing
- Fr5 pg5 misfolded OPAL booklet
- Fr5 pg16 50¢ Bk71 8¢ short printed
- Fr6 pg3-4 50¢ Bk71 misperforated
- Fr6 pg11 41 Bk58 security numbers
- Fr7 pg2 41 Bk70 8¢ short printed
- Fr7 pg6 \$1.50 Bk60 miscut
- Fr7 pg12 \$1.50 hibrite pane

## References

- Centennial Definitive Series 1967-1973** D. Robin Harris, Adminware Corporation, 2000
- Standard Catalogue of Canadian Booklet Stamps** 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Bill McCann, Unitrade Press 1996
- Canada the 1967-1973 Definitive Issue** F.W.L. Keane & J.P. Hughes 1975



# The Centennial Booklets of Canada 1967 - 1973

## Background

- The 1967 Centennial issue was produced to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation and appeared in February 1967, replacing the Cameo issue.
- Issued as a series of 5 small definitives of 1¢ to 5¢ along with 7 large higher value stamps of 8¢ - \$1. Over the next 6 years additional low value stamps were issued to meet the ever increasing cost of postage and to reflect changes in printing and mail sorting technology.
- The series is complex with several hundred varieties identifiable as a result of postal inflation, changes in printer contract, poor paper quality control, gum changes from dextrin to polyvinyl alcohol, perforation changes, the introduction of the first phosphor-tagging for mechanized mail cancellation and sorting, and color changes necessitated by technological advances. All stamps were printed by steel engraving.

## Scope

- This exhibit focuses solely on the booklets issued for vending machines (25¢ and 50¢) and over the counter dispensing (\$1.00 - \$1.50).
- The **Canadian Bank Note Co.(CBN)** which had produced Canada's stamps since 1935, produced the first booklets. They lost the contract in 1968 to the **British American Bank Note Co. (BABN)** which introduced the first se-tenant bi and tricolor booklets.
- During the tenure of the issue 18 distinct booklet types were issued known best by their Scott catalogue numbers as Bk54 to Bk71. CBN produced three booklets: Bk54, Bk55 (Chapter 1) which were the traditional stapled format with covers and interleaving and were sold in vending machines outside post offices. Bk63 was a unique hibrite pane produced for the Opal Manufacturing Co. (Chapter 5)
- All 15 BABN booklets were printed in the one piece composite format with the pane glued into the cover stock. BABN could print up to three different colors.
- During this period quality control was not optimal and a wide variety of papers were used for booklet stamp printing. These can only be identified by longwave fluorescent light and vary from a dead, non-fluorescent paper to a very bright paper termed "hibrite". In addition, the color of the paper and reaction with the ink result in a number of varieties. Only Ottawa or General tagging was used on booklet stamps. This is of two types. The first OP-4 migrates onto anything that comes in contact with the stamps. This was replaced by more stable OP-2 tagging

## Treatment & Plan

The exhibit follows a traditional format and is organized into logical chapters based on the booklet series and not the catalogue. However each booklet is cross-referenced to the standard booklet catalogue number for reference. In addition to the standard booklets, numerous errors and varieties are shown.

- Chapter 1: The CBN Stapled Vending Booklets
- Chapter 2: BABN Pre-production "The Baby Sisters"
- Chapter 3: The BABN 25¢ Composite Vending booklets 1968-1971
- Chapter 4: The BABN 25¢ Composite Vending Booklets 1971-1973.  
The complexities of the 25¢ booklet issued in 1971 "Bk69"
- Chapter 5: The 25¢ CBN/Opal Manufacturing Co. Vending Booklet
- Chapter 6: The 50¢ BABN Composite Vending Booklets
- Chapter 7: The \$1 BABN Counter Booklets
- Chapter 8: The \$1.50 BABN Counter Booklets
- Epilogue: The 1972 Caricature Vending and Counter Booklets

Exceptional items have a red frame and include several scarce BABN test items, the 6¢ orange miscut pane of 25, the 6¢ black hibrite pane of 25 and several misperforated panes

Note: Some illustrations are taken from *Centennial Definitive Series 1967-1973* by D. R. Harris (2000)



Booklet with the new Centennial cover and 5 x 5¢ Cameo pane

