

CANADA: 1985 - 50c Parliament Booklet Usages

Purpose

This exhibit answers the question, "how did Canada Post customers use those booklet stamps, especially the low values?" With the 16c worth of stamps that remained after the first class letter rate stamp was removed, mailers used ingenuity to get every penny of their money's worth.

Introduction

Starting with the 34c rate era in 1985, Canada issued a series of 50c stamp booklets with Parliament designs. These were dispensed by mechanical vending machines upon insertion of two quarters. The booklet panes consisted of one first class letter rate stamp (34c 1985 - 87, 36c 1987, 37c 1988 and 38c 1989) plus several low denomination stamps to make up the difference of 50c. Each value showed a different view of Canada's Parliament buildings. The booklet covers came in 10 different designs of stonework architectural details of the buildings. First day of issue was June 21, 1985 and the 34c rate came into effect June 24.

Challenge

Because these are relatively modern stamps, plentiful (almost 13 million booklets were produced) and of minimal catalogue value, postal history dealers do not specially carry covers with this issue, except by serendipity. Many such covers were discarded due to lack of interest in a bunch of 5c and 2c stamps that did not pay any extant rate, resulting in scarcity. Overseas letters and ancillary services such as registration and special delivery franked with these booklet stamps are especially elusive. These 15 pages of covers are the result of 10+ years of acquisition.

Scope

The scope of the exhibit is self-evident from the Table of Contents below.

Exploded
booklet
showing
positions
of the
stamps



Contents	Page
34c single usages	2
34c rate with low values	3
36c rate	4
37c and 38c rate	5
39c rate	6
2nd step and higher rates	7 - 8
Overseas	9 - 10
Registration	11
Special Delivery	12
Underpaid (not caught)	13
Underpaid (caught)	14
Overpaid	15
Mixed usage with later booklets	16



34c rate
cover
franked
with
multiple
low
value
booklet
stamps