

# SYNOPSIS for BNAPEX 2018

## **Title – Cameo Canadian Postal Stationery**

**Purpose of Exhibit** – To show the Cameo Canadian Postal Stationery.

### **Historical Background –**

The adhesive postage stamps of the Cameo design were first issued October 3, 1962. Some values were not released until May 2, 1963. The adhesive stamps were designed by Ernst Roch, engraved for one colour by Yves Baril and the lettering and symbol engraving was done by Donald J. Mitchell. The work including printing was done by The Canadian Bank Note Company.

When we look at the Postal Stationery things get much more complicated. At one point Canada Post had Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd. prepare Cameo negatives to supply to the printers in Montreal and Toronto.

The majority of the Regular Issue Envelopes were printed by Enveloppe Internationale in Montreal except that Gage Envelope printed at least one Envelope during a strike at Enveloppe Internationale. The 3 cent envelopes had 3 identifiable printings when the Dotted Hair Die and Line Hair Dies in 2 different stamp sizes replaced the Dotted Hair Issue. Gage Envelope had another Die they used. The 4 cent had 2 sized Dotted Hair Dies and no Line Hair Die. The 5 cent had a Dotted Hair and a Lined Hair Die in one size of each Die type.

The Regular Issue Post Cards were printed by British American Bank Note Company Ltd. from dies originating with their competitor The Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd.

The Printed to Private Order Envelopes and Post Cards were printed by several different printers. These remain to be totally sorted out and may never be completely determined as some of the files are obviously missing. Some of the larger contracts for Private Order items were printed by the Department of Public Printing and Stationery and Moore Business Forms. Forty- five years ago I looked at a number of Post Office files and found other companies may have printing cards for the CPR and possibly the CNR. We could never determine the exact number of the envelope contracts as the files say “1000 of the 5 cent stamp” but it is uncertain if these were a Karsh or Centennial design which for a time were used simultaneously with the Cameo issue. Thus it is impossible to determine if one has a “complete” collection.

The Cameo design was replaced in 1967 by the heavily studied Centennial Issue. When this issue was revalued for a rate change, some of the Cameo items still unsold were also revalued.

### **Scope –**

This design was used as the basis of the stamps on Regular Issue (over the post office counter) envelopes, post cards and post bands. There were never any aerograms produced using the Cameo design. Printed-To-Private-Order items (never available as a stock item over the post office counter) were produced for the Post Office Department for the Federal Government (Election Envelopes) and for many businesses and Municipalities. These included envelopes as well as postcards for the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, Eaton’s and the Ontario Hydroelectric Power Commission.

### **Availability –**

The Regular Issue items are common. The **Private** Order items vary from common to one of a kind. Many of these envelopes were printed in 500 to 3000 copies. A new item could be found at any time. New corner cards (printed before release by the Post Office) are still found occasionally.

The Private Order Post Cards vary from one known copy to common in the used state. Most of the mint cards Private Order Post Cards are scarce. The exception is the mint Railway Flimsies, some of which were found in quantities of 50 to 100 when they were discontinued over 35 years ago. The multiples of the Private Order Post Cards came out of files of the printers.

### **Philatelic Elements –**

We show the Regular, Official and Private Order envelopes, post cards, post bands/wrappers from lowest denomination to largest with variations. We also show printing errors in the production of a number of the envelopes. A few essays and proofs are shown with the related issued items.

**Highlights include** – The essays and proofs. The large pieces Private Order Post Cards. Some of the Revalued Cameo envelopes.

### **Philatelic References –**

1952-53 Karsh, 1954-62 Wilding, 1962-66 Cameo Definitives, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, by Robin Harris 1988

WEBB’s Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Editors – Earle L. Covert and William C. Walton.