

SYNOPSIS : FUNDRAISING FOR WWI THROUGH THE POST OFFICE

Purpose:

To explain and show examples of the philatelic items used by the Post Office to promote savings by the general public for the war effort in World War I. The exhibit excludes War Tax stamps, as it is dealing with voluntary forms of fundraising as opposed to taxation. This exhibit was originally a one frame exhibit but with additional material has been expanded to four frames.

Challenge Factor:

There are only two stamps for the program, a 25 cent Thrift Stamp and a \$5 Savings stamp. Both stamps were issued in English and French. The French versions being very rare, and only a few copies are known. The stamps are found most often in the Thrift or Savings folders, and are rarely found mint with gum; ungummed stamps originate from the folders. Essays of both the 25 cent and \$5 stamp with English and French versions are shown. A rare \$5 Proof of the Savings stamp, and original posters advertising both the Thrift and Savings stamps are displayed.

Presentation:

This display includes the English versions of the Thrift and Savings stamps, and a rare 25 cent French Thrift stamp, along with the Thrift cards in which the stamps were placed. Multiple essays and a mint gummed strip of 4 of the 25 cent Thrift and a proof of the \$5 Savings stamp are uncommon items. There are examples of slogan cancellations used across the country to promote both Victory Bonds and Savings/Thrift stamp programs, and promotional labels used on piece to promote the stamps. Some of the rarer French slogans from post offices such as Trois Rivieres are shown. A rare original example of a poster used during this period is displayed. Rarer items can be identified by a green matte background.

Organization:

The material is presented commencing with Essays and Proofs; then the Thrift and Savings stamps; Promotional Labels and Advertising Poster; and lastly Cancellations.

Bibliography/References:

The Canada War Book January 1919 prepared by the National War Savings Committee and issued by the Dept of Edu. Prov. Of NB.

BNA Topics – May 1964 Issue 5, BNA Revenues. The 25c French Issue of the 1919 Thrift Stamp by Edward A Richardson.

The following websites/pages contain reference information:

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/life-at-home-during-the-war/the-war-economy/finance-and-war-production/>

<https://stmary.dcdsb.ca/en/teacher-resources/resources/J.-Stanesic/The-Home-Front-Canada-and-WWI.pdf>

<https://canadianstampnews.com/otd-canada-authorizes-50m-war-savings-stamps/>