

La Nouvelle France – Synopsis

The purpose of this stamp exhibit is to put on display some of the historical events leading to the founding of New France through the presentation of postcards and philatelic elements featuring the Tercentenary series issued in 1908. We look at historical personalities and locations that were instrumental in the development of New France. The personalities featured are: Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain, Generals Montcalm and Wolfe and Bishop Laval; each is commemorated with a monument in Quebec City and they are recognized for their contribution to the history of the City of Quebec and New France. Postcards are used to illustrate the sites that commemorate the people and events that founded New France and contribute to the many tourist sites within the 21st century City of Quebec.

This exhibit was erroneously submitted as a Thematic exhibit and should have been entered as a Display. The exhibitor has collected this material over the last 3 years and continues to research material to expand and upgrade the exhibit. This will be the 1st time presenting “La Nouvelle France”. The Tercentenary Stamp Issue commemorating the founding of Quebec and New France is very popular to collectors and some material is scarce and therefore can be difficult to acquire. The elements presented in this exhibit have been acquired at auction, online, local dealers and the exhibitor’s stamp club.

An exhibit prepared by Herb McNaught; Canada – The 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Issue illustrates a comprehensive collection of the material that would be the bench mark of the Tercentenary stamp series. The current exhibit can only aspire to meet the entirety of this collection; as a result the exhibitor uses the philatelic elements and postcards in the collection to give an overview of the history of Quebec City and New France. This was a conscious decision on the part of the exhibitor to illustrate his enthusiasm for this stamp series, the history it represents and the City of Quebec.

The elements of the Tercentenary Stamps that begin the exhibit feature the stamps and several die proofs. Where practical the material is generally organized along an historical timeline, outlining the aforementioned figures and the monuments that celebrate their contribution to the founding of New France. The display begins with a description of the design and production of the Tercentenary series, as well as a period post office envelope with a complete set of stamps. An important highlight of the exhibit is the inclusion of the ½¢, 5¢, 10¢ and 20¢ dies proofs. The die proofs and other scarce and/or important elements are identified with a Fleur de Lys.

Subsequently domestic mail is displayed with a brief discussion of postal rates, later in period use of the ½¢ tercentenary and stamp colour variations of the 1 and 2 cent stamps. As well, several post cards are used to illustrate historic sites of Quebec City, followed by a series of post cards to England and France.

Historic personalities, with an overview of their contributions to the development of New France, are illustrated with early 1900s postcards and brief historical text. The exhibitor also notes Champlain’s contribution to the development of the fur trade and the economic development of New France. Reference to the fur trade is illustrated in a letter from London, UK to Montreal dated 1793 to Grant, Campion & Co., a company instrumental in the fur trade during the latter part of the 1700s.

The exhibit presents numerous postcards used to illustrate the history of the chosen subject and provide philatelic context to this stamp series. The post cards are period to the stamp series; one dating from 1935 illustrates the 1st Habitation at Quebec, all provide a visual background to the story. It is noteworthy that this period is considered the golden era for postcards. Two postcards are first day covers showing the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps of the series; as well 2 trifold post cards depicting a view of Quebec City from the St. Lawrence River also present the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps, with destinations to Sherbrooke, QC and Scotland, respectively.

Several registered letters and a registered parcel tag are featured, mailed to: Paris, New York and St John, NB. These feature higher denominations; the 20¢, 7¢ and 10¢ stamps respectively. The exhibitor has not yet obtained the 15¢ stamp used on a letter or parcel for domestic or international postage. However the exhibit contains the 15¢ stamp on a letter mailed and received in Montreal with the complete Tercentenary Stamp series, believed to be for collection purposes.

The exhibit concludes with the designation of Quebec City as a UNESCO heritage site in 1985. In 2017 Canada Post issued a stamp series of 5 UNESCO sites in Canada, with the St Louis Gate entrance to Old Quebec featured in this series.

Selected References:

Canada – The 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Issue – prepared by Herb McNaught; BNAPS Exhibit Series #50

BNA Proofs: Quebec Issue - <http://www.bnaproofs.com/can-quebec.html>

Dominion of Canada Stamps, Issues of 1903-1908 - https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/canadastamps_1903.html

The Stamps of Canada, by Bertram W. H. Poole http://www.gutenberg.org/files/22190/22190-h/22190-h.htm#Chapter_XXIII

Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada - <http://www.biographi.ca>

Sparks Auctions Catalogue; Jan 30-31, 2018.

canadianphilately.blogspot.com-The Quebec Tercentenary Issue of 1908