



# Philatelic Foundation Analysis Leaflet

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## THE CANADA JUBILEE ISSUE OF 1897

Although we must remain on guard against such material, the Canada Jubilees are noteworthy for their relative lack of alterations and forgeries. Of the 218 stamps that have been submitted to The Philatelic Foundation, only 34, or 16%, were found to have been regummed, reperfected, or altered.

An analysis of all Jubilee stamps expertized by the Foundation through March 31, 1983 will be found on page 10. For background information on the Issue, we quote from the definitive work on the subject, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, by Winthrop S. Boggs, published by Quarterman Publications, Inc.\*

## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE ISSUE

The year 1897 marked not only the sixtieth year of Queen Victoria's reign, but also the thirtieth year of Confederation. Canada, therefore, had a double reason to celebrate and for the stamp collector the celebration took the form of a long and handsome set of commemorative stamps.

This series was not only the first Canadian commemorative set, but also the first to be supplied by the new contractors, the American Bank Note Co., Ottawa, which had secured the contract by bidding lower than the British American Bank Note Co., and also agreeing to build a plant in Ottawa.

The design was by Mr. Lyndwoode Pereira of the Department of the Interior, assisted by F. Brownell and the portraits of the Queen, chosen personally by her, were the well known Chalon vignette and the famous likeness, painted by Prof. Von Angeli of Vienna, in 1862.

In the course of a debate in Parliament on the 20th of May, 1897, the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) announced the intention of the Government to issue a set of jubilee stamps, and giving the quantity and denominations to be issued as follows:—

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"It is the intention of the Government to issue a set of Jubilee postage stamps. Such stamps will be put into public use by being delivered to Postmasters throughout Canada for sale to the public in the same manner as ordinary postage stamps are sold. There will be a limit to the quantity to be issued. The denominations of Jubilee stamps, and the total number of such Jubilee stamps to be issued, are set forth in the following schedule:—"

(Included in Analysis, Page 10)

. . . The distribution of the stamps began on June 10, 1897, and the official date of issue was June 19, 1897.

These stamps were printed from steel plates, the ½¢ to 5¢, and 8¢ in sheets of one hundred (10x10), and the 6¢, and 10¢ to \$5.00 in sheets of 50 (5x10). The imprint (Type IX) "OTTAWA No. —" appears in the top margin only, above the fifth and sixth stamps, of the sheets of 100, and above the second, third and fourth stamps of the sheet of 50. This is the first appearance of plate numbers on plates of Canadian stamps. It is also interesting to observe the omission of the manufacturer's name.

Not including the post card, sixteen dies and transfer rolls were made, of which at least nine were used to lay down the plates. The work was so carefully done that the plate varieties are few and minute, not warranting separate listing . . . The dies, plates, and transfer rolls were destroyed September 10, 1897.

### Plate Varieties

RE-ENTRIES: 10¢— #6 fairly strong, and #16 faint. Faint horizontal guide line just below fifth horizontal row of sheet.

LINES AND DOTS: 8¢— Top row may be plated by variations in the position dots between the words "Eight" and "Cents".

10¢— #1, #7 vertical lines between "CE" of "Cents".

15¢— #4, vertical line through "N" of "Fifteen".

20¢— Constant dot above jewel of crown. "WE" of "Twenty" joined by line of color. Pos. ?.

### Bisects

The 1¢ was bisected diagonally and used for ½¢ on the "Railway NEWS," published at New Glasgow, N.S. Such specimens must be on a large part of the original newspaper, which also must be dated Nov. 5, 6, or 8, 1897.

### Counterfeits

Deceptive counterfeits, photo engraved, exist of the \$1.00, \$3.00, \$4.00, and \$5.00 denominations. The cancellations appear to be genuine, so that they were either made to defraud the Post Office, or a few passed through the post to still further deceive collectors. They are slightly different in shades and paper, and not being line engraved will not mislead careful collectors.

An engraved counterfeit of the one dollar value is also known, made in Italy. It is rather deceptive but the lettering is noticeably thinner than in the genuine stamps.

\* \* \* \* \*



Although the findings in the Analysis schedule that follows might indicate that philatelists need not be concerned about forgeries, there is always a need for caution, particularly since some counterfeits are known to exist, as noted by Boggs.

The number of regummed stamps that have been detected by the Foundation, while not excessive for an Issue with the value of the Jubilees, is nonetheless sufficient to warrant closer examination of the gum on these issues. As a rule of thumb, there are certain guidelines that can be applied. It should be noted that what follows are general guidelines rather than hard and fast rules. A skilled regummer, for example, can match colors to give the regum a toned look. As with any valuable material, it is advisable to obtain expert opinion, particularly if there is any reason to doubt the condition or authenticity of a stamp or cover.

| Features     | O.G. Jubilee  | Regummed Jubilee   |
|--------------|---|--|
| Color of gum | Pale, but brownish (toning)<br>cast   | Grayish cast   |
| Perforations | Soft, flexible  | Stiff, may show some gum over<br>to face or on loose fibers (also<br>possible with o.g. that has been<br>disturbed)  |
| Appearance   | Somewhat aged (crackly,<br>settled into the paper)  | Smooth, gum may lay "above"<br>the paper, possible bubbly<br>effect (visible by naked eye or<br>under light magnification),<br>possible foreign matter (may<br>also indicate brushed o.g.) |
| Hinging      | Not a factor. Some regummed stamps have been known to have<br>been hinged, possibly even by the regummer. |  |

Although no such items have been submitted to the Foundation for expertizing, it is also known that some "SPECIMEN" overprints have been removed and/or covered by a bar cancellation

| Foundation Expertizing Results to March 31, 1983 |            |              |                         |                  |                      |         |          |                   |         |
|--|------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| Denom-<br>ination                                | Scott<br># | Gibbons<br># | Number to<br>be Issued* | Actual<br>Issue* | Total<br>Submissions | Genuine | Regummed | Reperf-<br>orated | Altered |
| 1/2c   | 50         | 121          | 150,000                 | 150,000          | 3                    | 3       |          |                   |         |
| 1c   | 51         | 122, 123     | 8,000,000               | 8,000,000        | 1                    | 1       |          |                   |         |
| 2c   | 52         | 124, 125     | 2,500,000               | 2,500,000        | —                    |         |          |                   |         |
| 3c   | 53         | 126          | 20,000,000              | 20,000,000       | —                    |         |          |                   |         |
| 5c   | 54         | 127, 128     | 750,000                 | 750,000          | 1                    | 1       |          |                   |         |
| 6c   | 55         | 129          | 75,000                  | 75,000           | 6                    | 5       | 1        |                   |         |
| 8c   | 56         | 130          | 200,000                 | 200,000          | 1                    | 1       |          |                   |         |
| 10c  | 57         | 131          | 150,000                 | 150,000          | —                    |         |          |                   |         |
| 15c  | 58         | 132          | 100,000                 | 100,000          | 5                    | 3       | 2        |                   |         |
| 20c  | 59         | 133          | 100,000                 | 100,000          | 7                    | 5       | 2        |                   |         |
| 50c  | 60         | 134, 135     | 100,000                 | 100,000          | 3                    | 3       |          |                   |         |
| \$1.00   | 61         | 136          | 25,000                  | 26,700           | 34                   | 31      | 2        |                   | 1       |
| \$2.00   | 62         | 137          | 25,000                  | 27,052           | 40                   | 34 ***  | 3        | 1                 | 2       |
| \$3.00   | 63         | 138          | 25,000                  | 9,515            | 46                   | 39 **   | 6        | 1                 | 1       |
| \$4.00   | 64         | 139          | 25,000                  | 9,937            | 33                   | 26      | 4        |                   | 3       |
| \$5.00   | 65         | 140          | 25,000                  | 12,660           | 41                   | 36 ***  | 3        |                   | 2       |
| Total submissions                                |            |              |                         |                  | 221                  | 188     | 23       | 2                 | 9       |

\* From Boggs' *Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*.

\*\* Includes one stamp that is both reperforated and regummed (and, therefore, counted twice).

\*\*\* Includes one stamp with Specimen Overprint.