

Speaker Notes for “Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Issue” by Tom Meyerhof  
(presented to the OPS Canada Study Group on 4 January 2018; rev August 2018)

Slide Title: Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Issue

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In 1897 there were 3 reasons to celebrate; the 60th year of Queen Victoria’s reign, the 30th year of Confederation and the 400th anniversary of John Cabot’s discovery of North America’s eastern coast (likely NL).

The QV Diamond Jubilee issue represented a series of Canadian firsts:

- First and longest commemorative stamp issue
- First issue with denominations up to \$5
- First stamp issue printed by ABN in Ottawa. ABN had been awarded a new contract to replace the BABN contract that had expired on 22 Apr 1897
- First time that plate numbers appeared on sheets of Canadian stamps
- First time that Canadian stamps were printed in sheets of 50 rather than 100 subjects
- The 1c Diamond Jubilee post card was Canada’s first and only commemorative postal stationery (and was printed by BABN unlike the stamps)

Slide Jubilee Issue Represented a Number of Firsts for Canada

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Slide Inspiration for Young Queen Portrait

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- The Chalon painting (left) represented the first public appearance of Queen Victoria on the occasion of her speech in the House of Lords when she prorogued the UK Parliament on 17 Jul 1837. (Chalon lived from 1780-1860)
- The portrait was painted by order of the Queen to present to her mother, Duchess of Kent, Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld
- As the Samuel Cousins engraving (centre) was distributed to the British public on 28 Jun 1838, the day Queen Victoria was crowned, the portrait became widely known incorrectly as the “Coronation Portrait” as the Queen was wrongly described as wearing her coronation robes rather than robes of state she wore in the original Chalon painting
- The Chalon Head inspired by this painting was used on early stamps issued by various entities: Canada (12d 1851; 7½d 1857; 12½c 1859), NB, NS, PE as well as New Zealand, Tasmania, Bahamas, Queensland, Natal and Grenada (Wikipedia)
- The Chalon Head (right) was produced by William Humphries (1794-1865) working at Perkins Bacon from a watercolour by Edward Henry Corbould and used for several British colonial issues, but not Canada (Wikipedia)

Slide 4 Younger Queen Portrait

- Canada's 1851 12d (top left) was engraved by Alfred Jones (1819-1900) working for Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson in NY, and the 7½d (RWHE) and 12½c (ABN, NY) (top middle pair) used the same engraving of the Queen (LAC)
- A prominent Montreal collector had offered a mint 7½d stamp to ABN in Ottawa for their use to engrave the young Queen's head for the Jubilee issue but was rejected (Howes)
- The ABN contract permitted engraving of dies to be done in the US, provided that hardening of the die and further production work was done in Ottawa, so it appears likely that the Jubilee Chalon Head engraving was done in NY (Boggs), and differs from the earlier engraving
- Note subtle changes between the RWHE engraving and the ABN engraving (top right) used for the Jubilee stamps (eg tiara pearls, hair highlights, mouth shape, earrings, engraving lines on forehead and neck etc)
- Note the Humphreys Chalon Head (lower right) used for various British colonial issues (eg New Zealand) as well as the Cousins engraving (lower left) are slightly different again

Slide 5 Older Queen Portrait Confusion

- Surprisingly over the years various authoritative books on Canadian stamp (eg Howes, Boggs, Robson-Lowe) and catalogues (Holmes, Hansen) have mis-identified the source (and date) of the older Queen's portrait
- Looking at the close-ups of the heads for these portraits, note significant differences in the chin and veil between the Bassano photograph and von Angeli painting
- In the Bassano photograph (left) the Queen is dressed for the wedding of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (her 4th son) to Princess Helen on 27 April 1882
- The von Angeli painting (right) (signed & dated 1885) was commissioned by Queen Victoria and painted between ~Mar and May 1885
- The official Diamond Jubilee photograph by W.D. Downey (lower right) was taken on 6 July 1893 on the occasion of the wedding of her grandson Prince George, Duke of York (future King George V) to Princess Mary of Teck and intended for wide distribution to the public for her Diamond Jubilee

Slide 6 von Angeli Portrait Used on UK Postcards

- De La Rue used an engraving from the von Angeli painting on 2 different UK postcards, as well as some stamps for India and other British Colonies

Slide 7 Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Proposals

- The original plan was for 1 commemorative stamp to be issued for the Diamond Jubilee
- It is unclear if the Philatelic Record was referring to the diamond design, the PMG's oblong stamp or another proposal

Slide 8  
Pereira Essays for Stamp Design

- Lyndwode Charles Pereira was in 1897 the assistant secretary of the Dept of the Interior in Ottawa and well-known in poetry and figure-skating circles. He was assisted by Peleg Franklin Brownell, an Ottawa artist who at the time headed and taught at the Ottawa School of Art
- Note left facing young Queen on lower 15¢ essay

Slide 9  
Engraved Vignette Die Proofs

- Die proofs used for Jubilee stamps
- The young Queen's image was based on the famous 'Chalon Head' painting of 1837 with subtle changes, eg earrings
- The older Queen's image was from a photograph by Alexander Bassano in 1882

Slide 10  
Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Issue Announced

- William Gibson (who posed the question in Hansard) was the Liberal MP for Lincoln & Niagara
- William Mulock (also Liberal) had been the PMG since 13 July 1896
- This 20 May advance notice in Hansard announcing the public stamp release on 19 June led to speculators on 19 June immediately buying the ½c and 6c values which had low printings and were inexpensive to hoard

Slide 11  
American Bank Note Co., Ottawa, 1897

- To secure the printing contract, ABN had just built these premises, with J.K. Myers (who had been ABN Assistant Treasurer in their NYC office as Resident Manager
- By 1897 Myers was replaced by Warren L. Green as Resident Manager. Green was an engraver who until then was Vice-President, ABN in NYC. By 1908 Green had returned to NYC to become President of ABN
- Green was also the designer for the 1898 Imperial Penny Postage Stamp (Map Stamp)

Slide 12  
Postmasters First Advised of New Jubilee Issue

- This is the first of 7 Jubilee issue circulars to Postmasters issued between May and September
- Note that values above 50¢ will only be sent if specifically requisitioned

Slide 13  
Jubilee Quantities Printed & Issued

- \$1 and \$2 totals given by Howes and Boggs appear greater than quantities received from ABN, but include the reissue of stamps returned by postmasters
- Note the unresolved discrepancies in \$1 to \$5 quantities issued

Slide Jubilee Plate Layouts  
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- Some denominations were printed in panes of 50 where demand was expected to be lower
- Jubilee stamps printed in panes of 100 are normally on horizontal wove paper and measure 22 x 31.5 mm
- Stamps printed in panes of 50 are on vertical wove paper and measure 22.5 x 31 mm
- A 1962 BNAPS article reported for 3¢ value (printed in sheets of 100), 18 out of 4400 or 0.4% were found on vertical wove paper
- Note the different locations of the plate imprints relative to the vertical stamp margins for these 2 layouts

Slide Jubilee Plate Numbers Assigned  
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- Plate numbers were assigned by ABN in the order the plates were laid down, as was their US practice, rather than starting with 1 for each denomination
- Note imprint location on 10¢ and \$5 stamps (5x10 layout) (middle and lower right) is not centred over 2 stamps unlike the other stamps shown (10x10 layout)

Slide Die and Plate Proofs for Jubilee Issue  
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- The ABN imprint was apparently deemed inappropriate for the Canadian Jubilee issue and removed before final die approved
- Note that the NL Cabot issue (Discovery of NL) of 24 June 1897 included the ABN imprint as did the subsequent Royal Family issue (1897–1901)
- Was this a form of free commercial advertising or marketing by ABN?

Slide Black Die Proofs for Jubilee Issue  
17

- Dies numbered F-10 to F-24 for 1¢ to \$5 values, and then jumps to F-51 for ½c value suggest the ½c was initially unanticipated and may explain the low number of stamps actually printed (150,000) vs other low value 1c (2,500,000), 2c (2,000,000) and 3c (20,000,000)
- These proofs were probably removed from the ABN record book
- This is the only set ever publicly sold and realized ~\$62,000 including 15% commission and taxes at Brigham Jun 2014 auction

Slide 18 Jubilee Issue to be Sent to Postmasters

- Circular sent about 3 June
- On 10 June distribution of stamps to PO began for issue to the public on 19 June
- The advance notice in Hansard on 20 May meant that speculators only wanted to buy the low printings of ½c and 6c values and not full sets for \$16.20½. There was a widely held belief that post office employees and their friends bought large quantities before sale to the public which they in turn sold off at a premium
- The London Philatelist in Oct 1897 quoting a Canadian writes “Now that the stamps have been issued in certain numbers and in the PMG’s peculiar way, where are they? I had a letter from a Postmaster’s son at a small office in Quebec asking what I would give for 45 8c Jubilee stamps. Collectors in principal cities of the Dominion have seen whole sheets of ½c stamps in the possession of post office employees. These little incidents may give some idea where the stamps are. I also have a pretty good idea where the stamps are not. A prominent Toronto dealer laid \$100 on the stamp counter the first day of sale and was tendered 2 specimens of the ½c and 6c stamps. At Montreal, Toronto, St John, Halifax and all the principal cities, not more than 2 specimens of the ½, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20 and 50c stamps were sold to the same person, outside the post office staff. I have it on good authority that there is not a stamp dealer in Canada who has 100 of the ½c value unless he happens to be a post office employee also”.

Slide 19 ½c and 6c Jubilee Stamps to be Sold in Full Sets Only

- Circular issued about 29 June
- Due to heavy demand for ½c and 6c, their sale is restricted to purchasers of full sets only
- On 31 July the PMG indicated that 9,000 full sets had been issued and agreed to the further sale of lower value partial sets (up to 50c or up to \$1) demanded by the public
- Between 30,000 and 40,000 of both types of partial sets were then quickly sold

Slide 20 Unsold Jubilees Stamps to be Returned as Full Sets Only

- Circular sent about 2 July
- A reminder notice to postmasters that only full sets may be returned for credit
- The speculative bubble burst within a few years
- In 1900 a Montreal stamp dealer was selling a full mint set for \$17.50 or \$1.30 (8%) over face value
- In 1906, remainders of the \$2 to \$5 were destroyed (Hans Reiche, Maple Leaves 1966) and as late as 1909 Jubilees were still being returned to Ottawa for destruction (Linn’s Weekly in 1937)
- By 1914 dealers were selling full sets for as little as face value or just under (Bertram Poole, Canadian Postage Stamps, 1920)
- As late as 1917 high dollar values could be purchased at a 25% discount to face value (Les Davenport, a Toronto stamp dealer reported in 1959)
- In 1922 the International Stamp Co. of Montreal was selling mint \$2 Jubilees for \$3

Slide 21 Jubilee Issue to be Sold in Partial Sets to 50c and to \$1

- Circular sent about 27 July
- The demand for these 2 kinds of short sets was so great the supply was almost immediately exhausted and Stanton was forced to issue another circular in early August offering to supply postmasters with additional lower value sets to 50c only

Slide 22 Jubilee Issue to be Sold in Partial Sets to 50c

- Circular sent about 13 August
- Again the demand for these additional low value sets to 50c was so great the supply was almost immediately exhausted

Slide 23 Supply of Jubilee Issue Partial Sets Exhausted

- Circular sent about 16 September
- This was the last circular to postmasters on the Jubilee issue
- In reply to repeated requests from postmasters for more low value sets, the circular advises that except for a reserve of full sets costing \$16.20½, all partial sets had been distributed and that the printing plates were destroyed on 10 September
- This circular was presumably issued in mid-September (not end August as stated by Donald A. King, a Halifax post office official and philatelist who notes what he calls date confusion)
- The PMG had originally indicated that the Jubilee commemorative set quantities had been planned to last between 2-3 months should their use totally replace all current regular stamps (ie Small Queens)
- In establishing this limited supply, the PGM had assumed that ABN as the new contractor would be ready to issue their first definitive series (ie QV Maple Leaves) by fall 1897. The release actually occurred in November and December for the various denominations

Slide 24 Jubilee Issue Plate Destruction

- While the individuals in this dated photograph are not identified, the gentleman standing at the left may be William Mulock, PMG
- 16 dies and transfer rolls were made and at least 9 were used to lay down the plates (Boggs)
- Transfer rolls contained from 5-7 reliefs, but only 1 relief was used at a time on a plate (Boggs)
- Most transfer rolls contained reliefs of several values including 1 with reliefs of 5 different stamp values (Boggs)

Slide 25 Jubilee Issue & Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps

- The proliferation of special issues in the mid 1890s led to the formation of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps in London in May 1895 supported by APS and RPSL, to stop the issue of unnecessary stamps created mainly for sale to collectors. The SSSS disbanded in 1897.
- SG Monthly Journal, Jun 1897 states “. . . we strongly recommend - be satisfied with copies of 1 or 2 of the lower values . . . we trust that this discreditable issue fall as flat as it deserves”
- The American Philatelist, Nov 1897 states “It is true that Canada has quite recently entered upon a questionable course in issuing a highly speculative series of stamps and surrounding their sale with conditions that are offensive to many of our members”
- Germany proposed a resolution at the 5th UPU Congress held in Washington from 5 May to 15 June 1897 that special and commemorative issues of significance only to the issuing country, and issues with a limited period of validity were not permitted in prepayment of international mail, this restriction to formally come into effect on 1 January 1899. It passed by a vote of 16 to 5, Great Britain and several other countries opposed.
- This restriction was rescinded at the 7th UPU Congress of 1920 held in Madrid

Slide 26 Jubilee Album Presented to the Duke of York

- Album cover - royal blue morocco leather, decorated in gold leaf with solid BC gold corners displaying maple leaves and English oak leaves, gold clasp in form of oak leaves with monogram GFEA - George Fredrick Ernest Albert (future KGV)
- Note issue date given incorrectly as 22 June rather than 19 June
- “This is probably the dearest album in the world” (Howes, 1911)

Slide 27 Jubilee Album Presented to the Duke of York

- KGV diary for 22 January 1910 observes the album was “Bound and illuminated in the taste of the time”
- Some stamps poorly centred and stuck down – not a concern in that era
- Last page was left blank to hold the certificate for destruction of printing plates in presence of PMG, Sir William Mulock on 10 September 1897, but this was never sent from Ottawa

Slide 28 Jubilee presentation Album

- Note the enclosure of a view of the main Ottawa Post Office
- Stamps were affixed to album pages along their top edges
- The 1c black Jubilee commemorative postal stationery card was also included (referred to in PMG report for 1897 as “1c post card commemorative of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty”)
- This maroon leather bound book, considered unique sold for ~\$16,250 including commission & taxes at Brigham Auction in June 2014

Slide Specimen Overprints  
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- Specimen sets were possibly given to foreign postal authorities at the 5th UPU Congress held in Washington 5 May-15 June 1897 (Jubilee issue had been sent to Canadian Post Offices on 10 June)
- Canadian stamp issues were supplied to foreign postal authorities (as UPU members) to indicate they were legitimate issues for use on mail
- A Mystery - although the UPU does not require overprinting, some believe the receiving countries did so before affixing the stamps to registers as reference collections (eg Madagascar, Tunisia); others believe Canada did the overprinting before distribution
- Note that 20¢ has a different handstamp (non-serifed) while all others have a serifed lettering handstamp (all known with non-serifed overprint, Reiche)
- From PMG report covering FY 97/98 (1 July 97-30 June 98) ~\$12,300 in stamps (3% of \$4.4M sold) were supplied at no cost to UPU. The previous year \$14.70 in stamps supplied to the UPU (out of \$4M sold)
- As Jubilee, Maple Leaf and E1 Special Delivery stamps were released in this time-frame, I estimate about 740 Jubilee sets supplied to the UPU

Slide Low Value Jubilee Stamps  
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Slide High Value Jubilee Stamps  
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Slide Jubilee Commemorative Post Card  
32

- The BABN printed 7,000,000 commemorative post cards using lithography
- No varieties exist although the paper runs from cream to buff
- Top cover - stamp cancelled in Toronto on August 21 1897 with a Bickerdike Type 7 flag cancellation using machine D (see LL of flag marked D)
- Bottom cover - stamp cancelled in Ottawa on June 30 1897 with a Bickerdike Type 4 Diamond Jubilee flag cancel

Slide Jubilee Precancels  
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- Precancels were applied by an electrotpe both horizontally and vertically to sheets of Jubilee stamps in 2 styles known as Type T (believed used in Toronto) and Type U (believed used in Montreal)
- Precancels can be found on all denominations except ½¢, 6¢, \$3, \$4 and \$5 values

Slide Jubilee Stamp Varieties  
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- Varieties such as re-entries have been found on most values except 50¢, \$1 and \$4 values
- New ones will likely show up as fly-speckers continue to carefully examine copies under a magnifying glass

Slide 35 Jubilee Perfins

- Perfins (perforated company initials or insignia) to prevent pilferage are rare on Jubilee stamps
- Only WJ Gage in Toronto and Sun Life Assurance Co in Montreal are known to have used Jubilee perfins

Slide 36 Jubilee Stamp Bisects

- The Canada Official Postal Guides from 1863 to 1890 stated “A mutilated stamp, or a stamp cut in half, is not recognized in prepayment of postage”. In 1891 the wording changed to “No mutilated stamp can be accepted in payment of postage, nor should any soiled stamp be used, as it is impossible in many cases for the Post Office to distinguish a merely soiled stamp from one previously used and cancelled”. By 1897 the wording had been shortened to “No mutilated stamp, and no stamp so soiled as to suggest a doubt whether or not it was used before, will be accepted in payment of postage”. Clearly bisects were contrary to regulations.
- Bisects are found starting before Confederation, especially from the Maritimes and small Quebec towns due to the willingness of Postmasters to accommodate collectors wanting oddities and more practically due to local shortages of certain values resulting in the splitting of higher values.
- Bisects of 1¢ Jubilees were authorized or tolerated at small post offices in late 1897 due to the lack of ½¢ stamps for mailing newspapers
- Are top left and right cover pieces genuine usage examples?

Slide 37 Plate Proof Forgeries

- Forgeries created in 1950s (LAC)
- Note lack of engraving lines on lithographed forgeries
- Note poorly formed lettering on value tablet denominations

Slide 38 Plate Proof Block Forgery

Slide 39 Forgeries of Issued Stamps

- Earliest Jubilee forgeries are believed to have been created contemporaneously with the issue, written about since 1912, with at least 4 different forgers by 1960s
- Lithographed forgeries have engraving lines missing, show breaks and overall blurry appearance
- Eyes and gaze on forgeries different; on genuine young Queen (lower centre) she looks straight ahead, while on forgeries (eg lower left) she appears to look up
- Value tablet denomination letters thinner and less bold on forgeries
- Older Queen’s chin looks swollen on forgeries
- Foliage detail in spandrels is finer, sharper and clearer on forgeries than originals
- On dollar values roller cancels were generally applied to hide stamp details

- Photo-engraved counterfeits of \$1 to \$5 issued to defraud the POD can have genuine cancellations as they went through the mail undetected
- Dark violet 8¢ (top right) with value altered to become \$4 (should be purple)
- Modern inkjet forgery (lower right) is pixelated under magnification, cancel does not extend to edges, oddly shaped perforations measure 10 rather than 12
- Of 221 Jubilee stamps submitted to PF for certificates before 1983, 188 (85%) genuine, 23 (10%) regummed, 9 (5%) altered (all \$1 to \$5) eg filled thin, reperfed, cancel removed or outright fake

Slide 40 Cinderella Labels

- A cinderella stamp (label) is virtually anything resembling a postage stamp, but not issued for postal purposes by a government postal administration
- Wallace Brothers, London, UK prepared this set of souvenir labels (QV ½d in brown, 1d in orange, 1½d in green, 2d Edward VIII as child in purple, 3d Edward VII & Alexandra in red, 4d future King Edward VII & Alexandra in blue, and 6d future King George V & Mary in grey)
- Because the labels had denominations, were the correct colours for the values and had the word “stamp”, people began using them for postage, and so the company was told to stop selling them by the UK post office
- The labels are lithographed, perf 14, gummed, 21 x 27 mm and 38 x 27 mm in size

Slide 41 Fantasy Cover

- Snark Island was a Lewis Carroll creation
- Vignettes appear to be taken from Canada’s Diamond Jubilee stamps

Slide 42 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Stamp Imitation

- QEII design intended to mirror the QV jubilee issue. Jim Phillips, Director of Stamp Services at Canada Post stated: “For years, philatelists and collectors who specialize in stamps featuring Queen Elizabeth II have told us the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee issue was the standard by which stamps celebrating this Diamond Jubilee would be measured. We listened to them . . .”
- Officially issued 7 May 2012, but sold earlier on 5 May by Canada Post at ORAPEX 2012
- Note MAIL/POSTAGE on QE stamp rather than POSTAGE/POSTES used on many Canadian stamps other through the years into the 2000’s
- The poor likeness of the older QEII portrait is surprising. It was engraved by master portrait engraver Jorge Peral of CBN. He engraved the 2001 “*Canadian Journey*” banknote series (lower image) as well as other portraits of Queen Elizabeth II and Sir John A. Macdonald, and postage stamps such as the 95c Millennium Dove, and Canadian Wildlife series \$10 Blue Whale, \$8 Grizzly, \$5 Moose etc

Slide 43 Further Reading

