

3400 CAN CANADA

1

The Dominion of Canada was formed on July 1, 1867 with the passage of the British North America Act, uniting the British colonies of Canada (Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. British Columbia joined the Dominion in 1871, Prince Edward Island in 1873, and finally Newfoundland in 1949.

The first federal Post Office, operating as Royal Mail Canada, was created on the same date, July 1, 1867, It has operated continually since, and was privatized as the Canada Post Crown Corporation in 1981. The first issue of postage stamps for the Dominion are known as the “Large Queens”, issued in April 1868.



Canada

Canada Independent  
1868 – Present  
First issue "Large Queen" (21)

3400 CAN-C CANADA, BRITISH COLONIES

7

In 1851 the British Crown transferred authority to the Province of Canada for the creation of its own postal system. The Province of Canada had been formed in the 1840s with the unification of Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec). The postmaster of the province quickly arranged for the issuance of the first postage stamp, selecting a beaver motif designed by Sir Sandford Fleming, in lieu of a portrait of the British monarch. The 1851 "Threepenny Beaver", used for domestic mail, is the first postage stamp of Canada. Decimalization followed in 1854. The various colonies of British North America maintained local control over their postal systems prior to joining the Dominion of Canada, formed in 1867.

The next provinces to issue postage stamps were New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, later in 1851. The first issues shared a common design with the British crown and herald. In total the provinces issued 11 and 13 stamps respectively, between 1851-1867.

British Columbia and Vancouver Island were administered as two separate British colonies, but jointly issued the first postage stamp in 1860, a 2 1/2p stamp for local mail. International mail from Vancouver and Victoria was generally handled by steamer to San Francisco, given that there was no overland connection to Canada. The next stamp issues of 1865 were produced separately for British Columbia and Vancouver Island, with Vancouver Island having adopted currency decimalization and British Columbia still on the British system. In 1866 the colonies were unified as British Columbia. Stamps of the colonies were withdrawn in 1871 upon unification with Canada.

Prince Edward Island issued 16 postage stamps from 1861-1872. Newfoundland remained a separate British colony until 1949 and is covered in section CAN-G below.



British Columbia

Great Britain Colony  
1865 – 1869  
First issue



British Columbia & Vancouver Island

Great Britain Colony  
1860 –  
Only issue



Canada, Province of

Great Britain Colony  
1851 – 1867  
#14, 1859



New Brunswick

Great Britain Colony  
1851 – 1868  
First issue



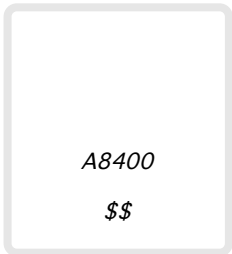
Nova Scotia

Great Britain Colony  
1851 – 1863  
#8



Prince Edward Island

Great Britain Colony  
1861 – 1872  
#16



Vancouver Island

Great Britain Colony  
1865 –



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CAN-G

CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND

3

Newfoundland was a self-governing Dominion of the British Empire from 1855 to 1933, when its status changed to a Crown Colony. Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949 following a referendum. The first postage stamps issued for Newfoundland were inscribed "St. John's Newfoundland" as this was the only established post office in the Colony at the time, and were denominated in British currency. In April 1865, the colony switched to decimal currency and new stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. In the 20th Century, Newfoundland was a center for experimental transatlantic flights and a number of Newfoundland stamps were overprinted for various air mail issues. Although these flight stamps are highly collectable, I have not treated these as separate postal entities.



1. St. John's Newfoundland

Great Britain Colony  
1857 – 1862  
#20



2. Newfoundland, Crown Colony

Great Britain Colony  
1865 – 1932



3. Newfoundland, Dominion

Great Britain Colony  
1933 – 1949

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CAN-N

CANADA, SEMI-OFFICIAL AIR POSTS

16

The Semi-Official Air Posts were private commercial airlines that contracted with the Canadian postal authorities to carry mail to towns only accessible by air, primarily mining camps, between 1924-1932. Stamps were affixed to the obverse or reverse of envelopes, which also carried Canada Postage. At the time, these covers were highly sought by collectors, and many souvenir covers were produced for philatelic purposes, often hand-signed by the air pilot. The Semi-Official Air posts can be found in the back of the Unitrade catalog. There is also a tribute website at [www.semiofficials.ca](http://www.semiofficials.ca).



British Columbia Airways Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1928 –



Canadian Airways Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1932 –



Cherry Red Airline Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1929 –



Commercial Airways Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1929 – 1930



Elliot-Fairchild Air Service

Canada Semi-Official  
1926 –



Elliot-Fairchild Air Transport Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1926 –



Elliot-Fairchilds Air Service

Canada Semi-Official  
1926 –



Fairchild Air Transport Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1924 –



Jack V. Elliot Air Service

Canada Semi-Official  
1926 –



Klondike Airways Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1928 –



Laurentide Air Service Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1924 –  
on cover



Northern Air Service

Canada Semi-Official  
1925 –



Patricia Airways and Exploration Co. Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1926 – 1927



Patricia Airways Ltd.

Canada Semi-Official  
1928 –



Western Canada Airways

Canada Semi-Official  
1927 –





Yukon Airways and Exploration  
Co. Ltd.  
Canada Semi-Official  
1927 –

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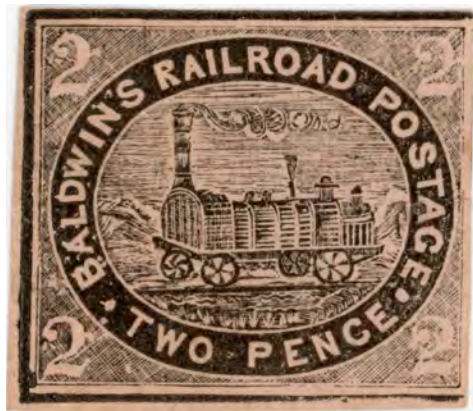
CAN-O

CANADA, CLASSIC LOCALS

7

Following are the known classic 19th century local (private) posts as well as fantasies as they are mentioned in both Melville and H&W. Many of these issues are now also covered by the Carriers and Locals Society, which hosts monographs from the Farrell Collection at pennypost.org.

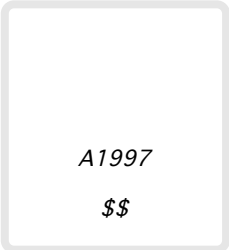
Ker's City Post (1863) and Bell's Dispatch (1864) were bogus posts created by S. Allen Taylor in Montreal. Baldwin's Railroad (1865) was also a bogus post created by stamp dealers Craig & Melvin in St. Johns NB, and passed off as genuine. Bancroft's City Express was printed in 1865 by a Montreal stamp dealer and then widely replicated by Taylor. They were never placed into use by the eponymous city express service, which existed at the time. I would be grateful to learn of other local posts from the classic period.



Baldwin's Railroad (NB)  
Canada Fantasy  
1865 –



Bancroft's City Express (Montreal)  
Canada Fantasy  
1865 –



Barnard's Cariboo Express (BC)  
Canada Private Post  
1858 –



Bell's Dispatch (Montreal)  
Canada Fantasy  
1864 –



Ker's City Post (Montreal)  
Canada Fantasy  
1863 –



Labrador, USA Post  
Canada Fantasy  
–



Upper Columbia Co. (BC)  
Canada Private Post  
1898 –

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CAN-R

CANADA, OFFICIAL

1

Stamps of 1949-1950 were overprinted O.H.M.S. (On His Majesty's Service). Stamps of 1950-1963 were overprinted with the letter G.



Canada, Official  
Canada Official  
1949 – 1963










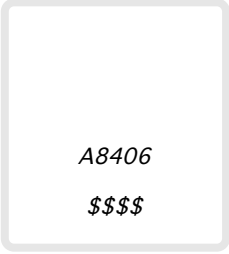




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CAN-T

CANADA, TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH

12

The telephone and telegraph franking stamps for Canada are cataloged by stamp dealer ESJ Van Dam. The extremely scarce Algoma Central Railway (1902) and Dominion de Forest Telegraph Company (1906) stamps are described on telstamps.org.uk. Van Dam states that only five copies of the Dominion de Forest stamp are known.

				
Alberta Government Telephone	Algoma Central Railway	Bell Telephone Co.	British Columbia Telephone	Canadian National Telegraphs Co.
Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph 1902 -	Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph -
				
Canadian Northern Telegraph Co.	Canadian Pacific Railways	Dominion de Forest Telegraph Company	Grand Trunk Pacific Railways	Great North Western Telegraph Co.
Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph 1906 -	Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph -
				
Manitoba Government Telephone	Saskatchewan Telephone			
Canada    Telegraph -	Canada    Telegraph -			

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CAN-W

CANADA, PRISONER-OF WAR LABELS

1

Labels were printed for free franking of mail between Canada and Europe for Prisoners of War held in Canada during WWII.



Canada, Prisoner of War

Canada    Camp  
1940 - 1946

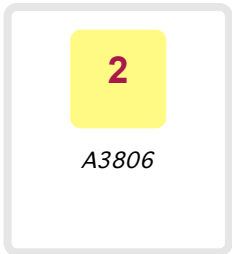
Saint Pierre et Miquelon is a French department off the coast of Newfoundland, representing the last remnant of the French Empire in North America. Beginning in 1885 stamps of the French Colonies were overprinted for use in St. Pierre et Miquelon, with pictorial stamps then being produced from 1909-1976, interrupted by the war. In 1940 St. Pierre et Miquelon sided with the Vichy government in France, while British and Canadian governments discussed intervention. On 12/24/1941, Free French forces captured the territory (over the objections of the Canadian Navy) and held a plebiscite which went overwhelmingly for Free France.

In 1942, the Vichy government produced a speculative issue of two denominations that were never placed into use. The F.N.F.L. (Free France) overprinted existing stocks of stamps during the war, which were sold by the agency in Ottawa to support the war effort, and then produced the omnibus France Libre stamps in 1942 for unoccupied French colonies. Production of regular stamps resumed from 1945-1976. In 1976, St. Pierre et Miquelon became a Departement Outre-Mer of France and commenced using the stamps of France. In 1986, the department again resumed issuance of their own postage stamps.



1. Saint Pierre et Miquelon

France Colony  
1885 – 1941



2. Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Vichy

France Fantasy  
1941 –



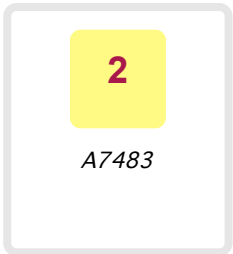
3. Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Free France

France Colony  
1941 –



4. Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Colony

France Colony  
1945 – 1976



5. Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Department

France Dependency  
1986 – Present