

*A Rate Study of  
The "Admiral" Stamps of Canada  
1912 – 1928*

George V became King of England upon the death of his father, Edward VII, on May 6, 1910. George was the second son of Edward and Queen Alexandra; as their eldest, Albert Victor, had died in 1892. As the second son, George had spent 15 years happily serving in the Royal Navy. Upon learning of his brother's death he returned from the Navy and began to prepare for his future role.

Canada took more than a year to create these stamps that present the King in the full dress uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Navy. This is the reason that these stamps are affectionately known as the "Admiral" issue.

On November 12, 1911, the Postmaster General, the Hon. Louis P. Pelletier, issued the following circular to postmasters, "King George V Postage Stamps. Postmasters are hereby informed that arrangements for a new issue of postage stamps bearing the portrait of His Majesty King George V has been authorized, and that they will be supplied with the same for sale in the usual way to the public on and after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1912. . . This exhibit presents the postal rates of Canada from the beginning of 1912, when these adhesives first went on sale, until the end of 1928, when a newer definitive series known as the "Scroll" issue was released.

Presented here are virtually all of the postal rates in use during this time period as established by the Canadian post office.

These rates include:

- Forward First Class Letters
- Drop Letters
- Post Cards
- Empire & Preferred First Class Letters
- Universal Postal Union First Class Letters
- Airmail
- Second Class Matter
- Third Class Matter
- Special Delivery
- Registered Mail
- Money Packets
- Acknowledgements of Receipt
- C.O.D. Service
- Military Rates

This exhibit will show the usage of the Admiral adhesive stamps as the sole or primary stamps paying these various rates. While the Admiral design is also found on postal cards of the same period, they are not a part of this exhibit.

Each section in the exhibit begins with a chart that helps explain the various rate(s) for each class of mail and lists the rate for the first ounce of matter being sent. Throughout the text, there is additional narration to explain the cost of heavier items when necessary.

The airmail rate requires special mention because the first airmail rate set by the Canadian Post was in August, 1928, very near the end of the Admiral Period. Prior to 1928, private commercial airlines carried airmail. These airlines often sold their own stamps through Canadian Post Offices at rates ranging from ten cents to fifty cents. The primary purpose for this service was to transport mail from mining operations in Northern Quebec, Ontario and the Yukon to rail terminals where the mail then completed its journey by train at the regular first class rate. The first Canadian Post Office airmail service began with several special flights that originated in Toronto as part of the Toronto Exhibition Jubilee. The first airmail flight was on August 24, 1928 and the postal rate was five cents.

Also, at this time, special delivery service was available only to the United Kingdom and the United States; however, prior to January 1, 1923, special delivery service from Canada to the U.S. was paid with U.S. postage.

This exhibit has been shown at several local exhibitions, garnering Gold medals and Best of Show awards. It has been shown five times at a national exhibition, each time earning a Vermeil medal. These shows include the Garfield-Perry March Party 2000, ChicagoPex 2000 where it also earned the APS Medal of Excellence for 1900 – 1940 material, The Plymouth Show 2001, Airpex 2002 and VanPex 2006 in Vancouver.

*References*

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