

SYNOPSIS

THE 1992 CANADA IN SPACE HOLOGRAM STAMP

NOVAPEX 2025

PURPOSE:

Exhibit tells the story of the Canada in Space stamp – Canada's first hologram stamp. Issued as part of the United Nations declaring 1992 the International Year of Space.

SCOPE:

This exhibit starts out as a traditional exhibit with discussion of how holograms are made and details on how this stamp was made. Discussion of how holograms are made, and the production process of this stamp can aid in understanding how the errors occurred.

Design issues and printing problem are reviewed, along with specialize issues dealing with a very new and precise technology such as holograms. Varieties on holograms are shown, then errors in printing, and errors in placement of holograms on the stamp. Varieties with missing holograms are not part of this exhibit as they are rare and extremely expensive to acquire when available.

ORGANIZATION / TREATMENT:

The plan items of this exhibit are:

- Introduction
- Production
- Hologram Varieties
- Hologram production errors
- Hologram placement errors
- Space stamp promotional items
- Epilogue

COLLECTING CHALLENGE:

Numerous factors affected collecting challenge:

- Stamps of this issue were quickly snapped up by collectors once word got out about the numerous varieties found on this stamp.
- Very few were used as intended on mail, and most are still held in private collections.
- Based on numerous early stories in papers and on television detailing errors and pricing, many non-collectors purchased stamps to store away as investments.
- Very few articles and studies have been done on this issue with Kasimir Bileski, (considered the Dean of Canadian Stamp Dealers) having produced the most details on the issue. (He was trying to publish a book on the 50 plus varieties he found in his studies but sadly passed away before being able to do so).
- The 5,000,000 stamps printed is not a large number considering that normally this many stamps were used up every 3 – 4 days in Canada,
- This issue sold out in less than six months and many post offices sold out months earlier.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Judges' attention is drawn to these unique items dealing with holograms stamp production:

- Printers promised all holograms would be within a tolerance of 1 mm when placed. Exhibit will show promise not met.
- Hologram errors (craters, fingerprints, etc.) reflect the process of creating holograms was still being learned and developed with this issue.
- Attempts have been made to include postally used covers in this exhibit. Covers are rare and hard to find.
- The hologram made the issue expensive, time consuming, and a real challenge for production. Concerns about these issues required designer to produce a "back-up" version of the stamp that could be printed quickly without the hologram.
- The 5 million stamps were printed in Canada and then shipped to the United States for application of the holograms, then shipped back to Canada for sale.
- Includes promotional items with hologram stamps.

Many items scanned at full size (or larger) to allow reading and viewing of smaller printing and design details.

AWARDS

New exhibit not shown before.

REFERENCES:

EQUINOX – THE MAGAZINE OF CANADIAN DISCOVERY- September/October 1992 – Pages 64 – 71.

THE 1992 CANADIAN HOLOGRAM STAMP AND ITS VARIETIES by Kasimir Bileski Pages 411 – 416
The Canadian Philatelist – Journal of the RPSC – Sept.- Oct. 1993.

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