CANADIAN OPERA FRAMED PRINT

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The 2017 edition of our Black History stamp features an interpreter believed to be the first person of African descent to reach Canada, whose name survived history.

6 Canadian Opera
This issue sings the praises of two quintessentially Canadian operas, as well as some of the talent that has anchored our place of honour on the world stage.

8 Daisies
It’s our annual harbinger of spring. This two-stamp issue depicts blooms of colourful daisies that grow wild in Ontario and the high country of the west.

10 Royal Canadian Mint Coins
A variety of collectible coins for all occasions.

NOTICE

Stamp printing specifications
• Perforations are all 13+ or simulated perforation.
• Tagging is on four sides, unless otherwise indicated.
• Paper is Tullis Russell, unless otherwise indicated.
• Gum type is pressure sensitive, unless otherwise indicated.

A first day of issue special envelope is a common term that refers to an Official First Day Cover (OFDC).

Items may not be exactly as shown.

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See what’s hidden in our stamps
Grab your black light to reveal Canada 150 features on our 2017 stamps.

$15.49
Ultraviolet lamp
341406
DEAR COLLECTORS
What will you discover?

On November 22, 2016, Canada Post held the grand opening of its latest retail concept store in Vancouver. The new main post office at 495 West Georgia Street offers customers everything they can expect at a post office as well as greater conveniences.

No matter how long we work at creating stamps for Canadians, we always have something new and thrilling to discover. Sometimes we’re like detectives, digging deep and finding amazing things we want to share with you. Take the stamps in this issue, for instance. We unearth the mystery of Mathieu Da Costa, the first man of colour to reach Canada whose name was recorded in early Canadian history. We reveal the peculiarity of the common lakeside daisy, which is so picky about its habitat that in Canada, it grows only in Ontario’s Bruce Peninsula and southern Manitoulin Island. And we explore the marvel of Canadian opera talent that has created exciting work in an old art form on the world stage. Every day, we bring our passion and a sense of wonder, to the stories behind our stamps - and we hope they spark excitement and pride in you - particularly in this special year for all Canadians.

PS. Don’t forget to look for the special Canada 150 marks on these new stamps. No hints this time - but read the next issue of Details where all will be revealed.

Jim Phillips, Director, Stamp Services

EVENTS

March 18 ............... OXPEX/OTEX 2017 Woodstock Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, Ontario
March 25-26 .......... Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show Central Lion’s Centre, 11113–113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
March 31-April 2 ... Lakeshore Stamp Show Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre, 1335 Lakeshore Drive, Dorval, Québec
April 9 ................. AMPEX 2017 W.J. Mouat Secondary School, 32355 Mouat Drive, Abbotsford, British Columbia
April 21-22 .......... EXUP 42 - International Stamp Show of Montréal Maison du Citoyen, 7501 François-Perreault Street, Montréal, Québec
April 22 ............... KAPEX 2017 Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario
May 6-7 ............... ORAPEX 2017 RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario
Our 2017 Black History stamp features Mathieu Da Costa, believed to be the first person of African descent to reach Canada, whose name survived history. It is speculated that Da Costa was a free man who worked as an interpreter for Europeans trading with Indigenous people in the New World. Evidence of this includes a document stating that, in 1608 – the year Samuel de Champlain founded the city of Québec – Da Costa agreed to work for French fur-trader, explorer and governor of Acadia, Pierre Dugua de Mons.

Depicting a centuries-old figure without a visual record is a challenge, to say the least – and a common dilemma when it comes to historical subjects. Designer Andrew Perro and illustrator Ron Dollekamp worked closely with Canadian historical illustrator and storyboard artist Francis Back to painstakingly ensure that all elements – from the style of clothing to the type of sailing ship – were right for the time and place.

While Da Costa’s story may never be fully known, his unique connection with our country is a reminder of the values of respect, acceptance and diversity that Canadians cherish and celebrate.
Bold, exuberant and unmistakably creative, the design of this stamp issue on Canadian Opera most assuredly mirrors the art form it reflects.

Canadians have long considered traditional opera as entertainment and a connection to European culture. However, it took until 1967 for Canada to produce an opera it could call its own. Commissioned to celebrate the country’s centennial, *Louis Riel* – composed by Harry Somers based on a libretto by Mavor Moore with Jacques Languirand – romanticizes the life of the legendary Métis leader. This year, to mark the work’s 50th anniversary, it is being revived by Toronto’s Canadian Opera Company. *Filumena* – another grand homegrown offering, composed by John Estacio with a libretto by John Murrell – tells the true story of an Italian immigrant who was the only woman to be hanged in Alberta. Calgary Opera is to stage it once again, this time in early 2017.

The stamp issue also sings the praises of three talented Canadians: world-renowned performers bass-baritone Gerald Finley, soprano Adrianne Pieczonka and director Irving Guttman, known as the father of opera in western Canada.

The creative leaps taken in the style of lettering and colours used in these first-ever stamps by creative director Gary Beelik and designer Kristine Do of Toronto’s Parcel Design and illustrator Peter Strain, reflect the team’s experience in book cover and poster design. According to Beelik, since the dark, dramatic background played such a big part in the overall design of the continuous, five-stamp souvenir sheet, the challenge was to make it also work for the booklet, where the background was not so apparent. “I wanted to utilize all of the real estate, create one flowing element that would connect all the pieces, and depict continuity without sacrificing individuality,” he says. “Against that powerful background, the collage illustrations, speech bubbles and clippings allowed us to do justice to what was a complex subject.”
$4.25
Souvenir sheet
404035145

$8.50
Booklet of 10 stamps
414035111

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Design: Parcel | Illustration: Peter Strain | Printer: Colour Innovations | Gum Type: PVA | Tagging: 2 sides (top and bottom)
Every year, Canadians count on Canada Post to herald the arrival of spring with a fresh flower issue. Cultivated or wild, these annual blooms pull us out of the winter doldrums and turn our thoughts to the warmer, sunnier days ahead. This year, two colourful daisies are available to brighten your day – and your mail.

While the lakeside daisy (Tetraneuris herbacea) is named after an Ohio village, this brilliant yellow wildflower is now found almost exclusively on Ontario’s Bruce Peninsula and southern Manitoulin Island. Designated as threatened on the federal and provincial lists of species at risk, this perennial thrives in areas of exposed bedrock with scant soil – areas that are also prone to development. Sadly, its beauty is fleeting, as its golden flowers last only about a week.

Fields of showy fleabane (Erigeron speciosus) welcome the arrival of spring in wet meadows and open forests in British Columbia and Alberta’s high country. This attractive wildflower, which is usually found in lavender but also exists in pink and white, is known by many other names, including pretty daisy and aspen or Oregon fleabane. Although it has played a role in traditional medicine, the best tonic this bloom provides may just be the hope that spring is finally close at hand.
$2.70
First day of issue special envelope
414032131

$2.50
Postcard
262464

$8.50
Strip of 10 stamps
404033119

$3.40
Strip of 4 stamps
404033118

$2.50
Postcard
262465

$25.00
Postcard
262464

$25.00
Postcard
262465

“Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do! I’m half crazy, all for the love of you.”

The refrain of this classic song, written by Harry Dacre in 1892, appears on the back of our Daisy coil.

$42.50
Coil of 50 stamps
404033117

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Design: Debbie Adams | Illustration: Debbie Adams | Printing: Lowe-Martin | Gum type: PVA | Tagging: 2 sides (left and right)

Included in Stamps of Canada January-March 2017 collector’s pack: souvenir sheet, die-cut pair from the booklet, die-cut pair from coil.

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$51\textsuperscript{95}
2017 $10 Pure Silver Coin – Celebrating Canada’s 150\textsuperscript{th}: Grizzly Bear
Mintage: 25,000 coins worldwide (15.87 g)
244923 ▼■ No GST/HST

$29\textsuperscript{95}
2017 $10 Pure Silver Coin – Maple Leaves
Mintage: 35,000 coins worldwide (15.87 g)
244927 ▼■ No GST/HST

$59\textsuperscript{95}
2017 Special Edition Proof Silver Dollar – Our Home and Native Land
Mintage: 20,000 coins worldwide (23.17 g)
244932 ▼■ No GST/HST

$51\textsuperscript{95}
2017 Specimen Set – Snow Goose
Mintage: 30,000 sets worldwide
244920 ▼

$102\textsuperscript{95}
2017 $20 Pure Silver Coin – Nature’s Impressions: Polar Bear
Mintage: 7,500 coins worldwide (31.39 g)
244925 ▼■ No GST/HST

$102\textsuperscript{95}
2017 $20 Pure Silver Coin – Nature’s Impressions: Woodland Caribou
Mintage: 7,500 coins worldwide (31.39 g)
244888 ▼■ No GST/HST
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* Signed and numbered

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Details is published by Canada Post Corporation.
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Design and layout: André Monette

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