



BC Philatelic Society Newsletter

Bringing stamp and postal-history collectors together since 1919

The BC Philatelic Society — Always on-line at www.bcphilatelic.org

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The Hindenburg Disaster's Crash Mail — postalmuseum.si.edu | ezep.de



Hindenburg disaster card, 1937



Hindenburg disaster cover, 1937

Source: postalmuseum.si.edu

Hindenburg disaster card glassine, 1937

On May 6, 1937, while approaching Lakehurst Naval Station's mooring mast between storms, Hindenburg burst into flames. Within 34 seconds, fire consumed the entire airship. Passengers and crew members jumped from the burning airship, some falling to their deaths. Thirty-five of the 97 men and women on board, plus one ground crew died. The disaster ended transatlantic commercial travel in lighter-than-air vessels.

Postal covers from the Hindenburg disaster are very expensive and highly sought after. For those interested in "crash mail" Dieter Leder, a German author, has released a new book titled *LZ-129 Hindenburg Zeppelin Crash Mail*. This book is a valuable source of information on the disaster. Written in English, it provides a complete and accurate account of the crash, in which

of the 17,500 pieces of mail onboard, only 357 were officially recovered.

Leder's hardbound volume is approximately 300 pages with over 300 colour illustrations. The first two chapters deal with the pre-crash mail dispatch at Frankfurt *Auslandsstelle* (foreign section) and *Luftpoststelle* (airmail section). The third chapter covers the operation of the onboard post office, while the following chapter deals with the American eastbound mail dispatch.

Ten chapters are dedicated to the nine postal artifacts found in the wreckage. The largest section of the book, containing 120 pages, lists all officially and privately recovered articles including their address. Where available, the recovered article is illustrated. A final chapter covers crash mail forgeries. The book is self-published by the

this issue

- The Hindenburg Disaster's Crash Mail
- The Twelve Pence stamp of Canada
- The Beginning of the End of Tellers?
- Did you know?

And more...

author. Contact the author directly for more info at: zpj@arcor.de

The Twelve Pence stamp of Canada — by Virgil Soh



The head of Queen Victoria with the colour of deep black, facing right on an imperforate stamp was the design of the 12-pence stamp. It is very rare and has an interesting history.

In 1851, Canada issued its first stamps. They featured the beaver on the 3-pence, H.R.H. Albert, the Prince Consort on the 6-pence denomination, and Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the 12-pence. These stamps were produced on laid paper without perforations. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edison, the New York security printers, received the contract to print Canadian postage stamps, producing all the requirements until May 1, 1858.

During that period, the cost of postage to United Kingdom was 1 shilling, and it was thought necessary to provide stamps of that value. Hence, the 12-pence, which was equivalent to 1 shilling, was issued on June 14, 1851.

There are a few reasons for the 12-pence's rarity. Approximately 51,000 stamps were printed, which made it so scarce that it was a number of years before its existence became generally known among collectors. It was not until the early 1870's that several copies became known, and collectors took notice of its great rarity.

The 12-pence had a short life because soon after its issue, postage to the United Kingdom was reduced to 10-pence. As a result, the blue Jacques Cartiers 10-pence stamp, issued Janu-



ary 1855, did away with the need for the 12-pence. According to official records, less than 1000 were sold at post offices, with the remaining 50,000 being destroyed. Details of their destruction aren't known.

What also made the 12-pence scarce was the practice at that time of not pre-paying postage. Many believed that unpaid letters, on which postage was collected on delivery, was likelier to reach their destination: the postman had an incentive to ensure delivery or else he would not be paid. The postage fee in either case was the same. Recently, a mint 12-pence was sold for \$225,000 by one Canadian collector to another.

collectionscanada.ca

The Beginning of the End of Tellers? — By Laura Termes

Sometime in December 2012, Canada Post released ATMs (*automatenmarken*). Currently available at 8 machines across Canada, expansion is expected.

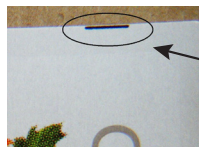


According to one postal employee, the current format could change from singles to strips, and the stylized maple leaf might be interchangeable with oth-

er images. Sounds a lot like the direction Royal Mail took with their highly successful Post & Go strips of varying topicals. Given the identical machinery, this is perhaps unsurprising.

One challenge this product may face is trying to distance itself from the brand south of the border, Zazzle custom postage. Looking strikingly similar, with the black barcode on white background, I know few collectors who take Zazzle postage very seriously.

Stay tuned for the OFDC release, which Duff says Canada Post is due to announce.



*Check for black 'guidelines' (circled on image). They appear approx. every 20 stamps.

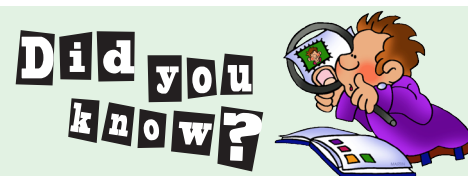
Locations for the new stamp vending kiosks are all in downtown Vancouver:

1. The main downtown post office (across from the library) — they have a lady working there who will help customers with the machine
2. Bentall Centre
3. London drugs (bottom floor) at Granville & Georgia.

Laura is an archaeologist and she collects archaeology stamps on cover. She has a great blogspot on archaeology postage stamps, stationary and cancels. To view her collections, visit:

<http://stampraiders.blogspot.ca/p/blog-page.html>

Clip-art source : crazywebsite.com



Mail salvaged from shipwrecks and crashes is usually marked to indicate the cause of delay or damage. The first instance of shipwrecked mail being marked was in 1846 when letters saved from the wreck of the *Great Liverpool* were thus marked with a framed stamp.

Special labels affixed to mail salvaged from a train crash were first used in Canada in January 1873 on letters rescued from a crash on the Grand Trunk Railway near Grafton, Ontario. Rubber-stamped endorsement was applied to salvaged mail from the crash at Mattawan River, Ontario (June 1894).

In Feb 25, 2013, The National Post reported a collector paid \$225,000 for the rare 12-penny. It was a superb mint sample, thought to be the best-preserved and most vivid colour specimen of its kind.

The Guinness Book of Stamps Facts & Feats by James Mackay
| flip literature.org | The National Post | phillipmartin.info

BC PHILATELIC:



The BC Phil welcomes your participation. Present a program, volunteer for a committee, participate in auctions, plan a VANPEX exhibit.

About VANPEX, it's not too early to send in your exhibit applications and start working on exhibits. Download forms at www.bcphilatelic.org

Image source: phillipmartin.info

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