

Yes, You Can See Grandpa's Stamps!

Creating Informative, Secure, Archival Album Pages

I'm curating old Canadian stamps from a collection started by my grandfather so that their story can inform and be enjoyed by younger generations.

Problems

Commercially available album pages are usually one-sided and flimsy.

Fragile stamps can fall out of most stamp mounts when pages are handled by children and older viewers.

One can't view the back of a stamp to ascertain condition without removing it from the mount.

Information about the stamp on most pages is minimal.

After much experimenting with different materials and designs, this is my solution.

1. Design

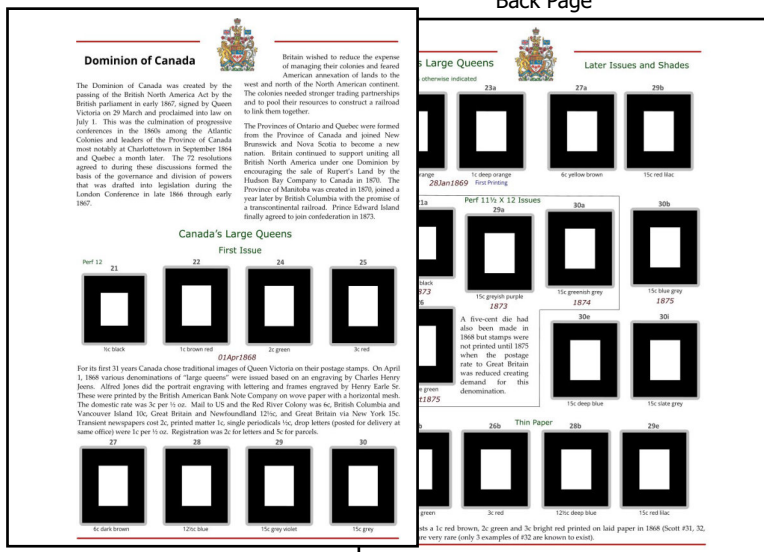
Use a publishing program to create front and back "overlay" pages. Content and layout is your choice.

Leave 1½ inch margin on left (front page) and right (back page) for eventual three hole punch.

Print on 28 lb premium acid-free laser print paper for color.

Front Page

Back Page



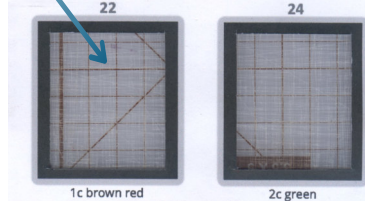
2. Cutting

Use a sharp X-Acto® knife, steel edge rule and cutting mat to carefully cut out a window for each stamp leaving a black frame (takes some practice).

Windows cut revealing cutting mat underneath

Canada's Large Queens

First Issue



1c brown red

01Apr1868

2c green

Canada chose traditional images of Queen Victoria on their postage stamps. On April 1, 1868 various denominations of "large queens" were issued based on an engraving by Charles Henry Jones. Allied Jones did the portrait engraving with lettering and frames engraved by Henry Fable St. These were printed by the British American Bank Note Company on wove paper with a horizontal mesh. The domestic rate was 3c per 10 c. Mail to US and the Red River Colony was 6c. British Columbia and Vancouver Island 10c. Great Britain and Newfoundland 12c, and Great Britain via New York 15c. Transient newspapers cost 2c, printed matter 1c, single periodicals 1c, drop letters (postage for delivery at same office) were 1c per 10 c. Registration was 2c for letters and 5c for parcels.

View Back of Stamp



12c blue Actual size

3. Assembly

A 65 lb black licorice premium archival 8½ X 11 cardstock is sandwiched between the two overlay pages using Lineco 1¼ inch wide linen tape along the length (album page's outside edge) offset by ¼ inch to allow attachment of the tape to the black cardstock.

On the opposite side of the black cardstock create a 1 inch sleeve using ¾ inch strips trimmed from the wide margin of each overlay page. Secure along the entire edge with the linen hinge tape.

Each overlay page is trimmed to allow it to slide into the sleeve to close the page and then three-holed punched.



Actual size

Linen hinging tape



Later Issues and Shades

27a

29b

6c yellow brown

15c red lilac

1 inch sleeve secured by linen hinging tape with edge of overlay page inserted underneath

4. Mounting

Stamps are placed in appropriately sized 1.6 mil BOPP Clearbags® and secured on the black cardstock with archival tape such that the stamp is centered in the window when the overlay page is closed.



Features

Archival materials and rigid construction will protect valuable and fragile stamps for many years.

Clean black printed frame lines hide any variations when cutting windows.

Page overlay can be readily opened to view back of stamps or to change out or add stamps.

Linen hinging tape is strong and provides reinforced holes for use in ring binders.

Old, fragile and valuable stamps and their history can be enjoyed by young and old with minimal risk to the stamps themselves.

The Finished Front Page

