



Travelling Through Philately

Simon Lachaine - simonthechain@gmail.com

Movies and philately are both windows into other cultures. This is especially true of the movie *Tommy Tricker and the Stamp Traveller* (1988), in which a boy literally travels on stamps, from Canada to China and Australia. For the first leg of that journey, he travels by riding the horse behind the R.C.M.P. mountie on a Canadian stamp. I saw that movie as a child, and it sparked my passion for philately.



my stamp



In the movie

To me, the Canadian R.C.M.P. stamp (#223, 1935) is **THE** mythical stamp to have in your collection, because it's the one that unlocks the curiosity for all the other stamps out there.

When I got back into the hobby a few months ago, I purchased a used Canadian stamps packet in which I found a copy of this stamp: imagine my excitement! Unfortunately it's heavily marked, but it serves to illustrate that the stamp is made to travel.

I recently acquired a new copy of that stamp, in mint condition, very fine and never hinged. It's superb, and seeing it with my own eyes is a much more rewarding experience than seeing a photo or a scan on a screen.

In French we say "*Les voyages forment la jeunesse*" (travelling shapes youth); as a child, I was able to travel through the stamps in my collection, and that has certainly shaped my view of the world. Today I once again embark on this great journey, in which there is no destination: the ongoing imaginary travel *is* the destination.