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MAY

***** EDITORIAL ** by John Kellas *****



July 15th will be a very important date to remember. The U.S.P.S. will implement the "New Size Standards" which covers both small and large size pieces of mail on that date. Several past U.S. postal cards will become in effect de-monetized because they are smaller than the minimum standard size and thus un-mailable! Several note, invitation, holiday, greeting, etc.-cards and their small or large envelopes will become either un-mailable or subject to an added surcharge. READ the full story on page 2..... The RPA wishes good luck to member Gordon Morison who was appointed to a five person advisory panel. The panel is to assist the GSA in developing a method of disposal of the remaining Carson City Silver Dollar Hoard. Mr. Morison is the Assistant Postmaster General, Customer Service Department, U.S.P.S., Washington, D.C.....

MAY MEETINGS

May 10 "Genesee Valley Pioneer History" talk by local expert starting at 8:00pm.

May 24 "U.S. Revenue Stamps" talk and display of some U.S. Revenue types. Starts at 8:00pm.

DO NOT FORGET ABOUT handing in your auction lots for listing and auctioning during the RPA Annual Baquet in June. All lots must be submitted on or before the last meeting in May. Lot forms are available at the meetings.....

STAMP SHOWS

May 2 MAY-PEX'79, Junior Exhibition, Sacred Heart School Library (upstairs), Roch., N.Y.

May 11-13 FOPEX'79, Convention Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y. Admission \$1, Fri 12-8, Sat 10-8, Sun 12-6.

BOOKS

Topical Issues of 1978 with 1979 Catalog Numbers, by Ruth Y. Wetimore. American Topical Association, 3306 N. 50th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216. 68pp. softbound book, cost \$4.00

Islenzh Fvimorki (Catalog of Icelandic Stamps) 1979, by S. H. Thorsteinsson. Bilingual (Icelandic and English) catalog with prices in Icelandic kronur, 23rd ed. Available from Scanstamps LTD., Box 28054, Washington, D.C. 20005. Cost \$7.50 postpaid.

Hibernian Specialized Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland, 1922-1978. Hibernian Stamp Co. Ltd., 11 Harrington Street, Dublin 8, IRELAND. 130pp., illustrated, cost about \$10.00 (£5.30) postpaid.





Policy changes

Postmaster General J. Gilles Lamontagne has announced revisions in Canada Post's philatelic policy to make the service more efficient and bring it in line with other postal authorities.

The two effective dates for changes are April 1, and July 1.

Most prominent in the changes is a minimum order requirement, below which a service charge will be added onto an order.

For those belonging to the Collector's Subscription Service (CSS) who have standing or automatic orders, the minimum order requirement as of July 1 will be \$2.50. Orders which do not reach the minimum will have a 50 cent service charge added.

For CSS members placing special or mixed orders, and those placing cash orders, the minimum order effective April 1, will be \$5 or a 50 cent service charge.

Special or mixed orders are generally considered to be something which is beyond a normal standing order.

Previously, the only minimum order requirement was \$1 applied solely to cash orders.

"It is to a person's advantage to establish

a CSS and a standing order," stated one Canada Post spokesman in Ottawa.

According to the spokesman, of approximately 35,000 CSS members only 5,000 to 6,000 do not already qualify for the new minimum requirements.

"Customers who place cash orders, or subscription customers who place special orders through their Collectors Subscription Service accounts, can accumulate their orders until they meet the minimum order requirement of \$5, thus avoiding the 50 cent service charge that applies on orders below that amount."

Two Canada Post spokesmen agreed that the 50 cent service charge was basically tokenism which would not meet the additional costs of small orders and should present no hardship for anyone in Canada.

Also effective April 1, the retention period by Canada Post for commemorative stamps, special issues, and first day covers will become six months instead of one year. Most occasions stocks are depleted at the end of six months, the spokesman said.

Similarly, the period after release of a new design for definitives, pre-cancelled,

postage due, and coil stamps, along with booklets and stationary becomes six months.

Retail products will be retained for three years.

A spokesman cautioned that this does not mean that commemoratives, for example, will be available for six months, but rather that the longest they will be available is for that period.

The reason for the change is to alleviate storage and inventory problems which should make the system more efficient.

As of July 1 there will also be restrictions on product formats available.

In an attempt to alleviate problems with the computer system and stop the cost of orders processed by hand, the philatelic mail order service and philatelic windows will no longer honor requests for odd-sized blocks, strips, stamps in mid-pane positions, or individual designs from set-tenant panes.

According to the Canada Post spokesman, this will affect about 7,000 to 8,000 orders.

The final change applies to first day covers. For orders of less than 500 covers (the number contained in a box) a 15 cent

fee will be applied for affixing, cancelling, and delivering individually dressed covers. Where collectors affix their own stamps, the cost will be 10 cents.

For bulk orders of 500 or more, requiring postage to be affixed, cancellation, and return under separate cover, there will be a service fee of 15 cents plus return shipping costs.

For bulk orders with stamps affixed and cancellation occurring at the official cancellation site, the fee will be five cents per cover.

The spokesman emphasized that the changes are basically aimed at the mail order service and are designed to make the philatelic service more cost effective and to provide a more economical way to produce a better profit without hurting the customers.

"We have the bugs worked out of the system now," he stated, "and we should be providing good service if there are no disruptions.

"There is always the potential for a mechanical breakdown, but barring that, we'll deliver."



NEWS

Size standards for envelopes, cards and other pieces of mail will become effective July 15, the Postal Service general release announced. The Postal Service's Governors also adopted a 7-cent surcharge for oversized and odd-shaped pieces of mail. The new size standards were recommended by the Postal Rate Commission in April, 1976 and adopted shortly after that by the Postal Service's Governors. It was stipulated that they would not become effective until after the spring of 1978, giving customers at least two years to prepare for the change and exhaust their supplies of non-conforming envelopes and cards. The Governors directed that both the surcharge and new minimum size standards become effective on the same date. This means that after July 15, pieces will be non-mailable if they are less than 3-1/2" high, 5" long, or .007" thick. Subject to the 7¢ surcharge will be first class mail weighing one ounce or less and single piece third class mail of two ounces or less that exceed any of these dimensions: 6-1/8" high, 11 1/2" long, or 1/4" thick. Also subject to the surcharge are odd-sized pieces within weight units noted above. The acceptable size ratios: length must be between 1.3 times and 2.5 times the height. Exceptions: If a piece is more than 1/4" thick it does not have to measure at least 3 1/2" high or 5" long. Thicker pieces, such as film mailers, can be mechanically culled from the "river" of mail moving through a post office's facing and cancelling equipment. Also exempted: from all but the minimum thickness standard, are keys, identification cards and tags. Film cartridge envelopes, if lightweight, will be subject to the surcharge.....



- May 3 CANADA, Authors, two 17¢ stamps honoring two Canadian literary figures.
- May 11 CANADA, Historic Colonels, two 17¢ stamps honoring Col. John By & Col. Charles-Michel de Salaberry.
- May 18 U.S., Nonprofit envelope, 3.1¢
- June 4 U.S., Architecture, four 15¢ stamps, 1st of Architecture series.

DO NOT FORGET ABOUT THE RPA ANNUAL BANQUET
TICKETS \$7.50 at the meetings...
June 23, 1979 Saturday evening 7:10pm
Maple Dale Party House

NOMINATIONS FOR RPA
OFFICES ARE OPEN..