

Euro + NA Rly

Canadian Themes on STAMPS Rail

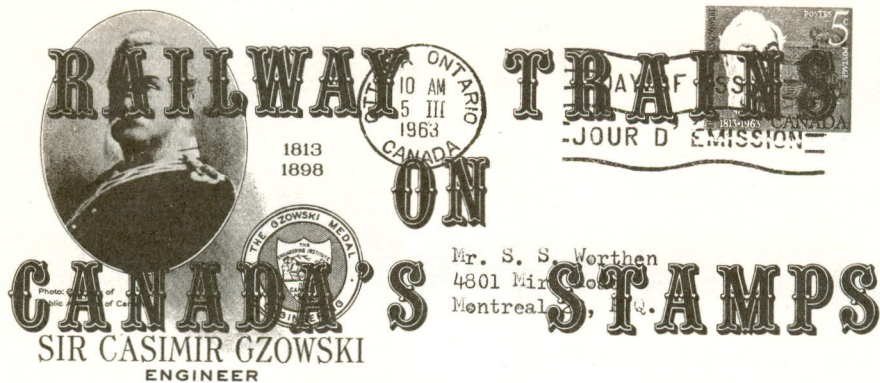
EARLY Loco CHAMPLAIN RAIL



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PHOTOGRAPH OF
SIR CASIMIR GZOWSKI
ENGINEER
BUILDER OF THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY
AND THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE
(FORT ERIE, ONT. - BUFFALO, N.Y.)

F.F. Angus.

The Canadian Post Office, on November 1, 1968, issued a new six-cent postage stamp, which will be the regular issue to cover the new first-class postage rate. This stamp is generally similar to the 1 through 5-cent regular varieties of 1967, but the design incorporates illustrations of various means of transportation and, prominently in the foreground, is the unmistakable likeness of the new TURBOTRAIN!



The inclusion of a railway train in the design of a Canadian postage stamp recalls other stamps, - some more than a century old, issued in British North America, and depicting trains or locomotives.

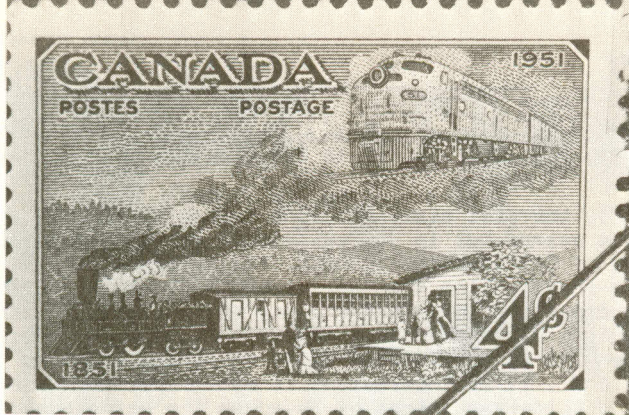
In 1860, only twenty years after the world's first postage stamp had appeared and 24 years after the opening of Canada's first railway, the Province of New Brunswick, - then a separate colony, not yet united with Canada, produced a new series of stamps. The one-cent value, showing an imposing view of a 4-4-0 locomotive of the European and North American Railway, was the first stamp in the world to show a railway subject. It is said that the engine was the PRINCE OF WALES, - which was newly-built to haul the Royal Train of 1860, on the E. & N.A., when the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, visited the North American provinces. After Confederation in 1867, the postage stamps of Canada replaced those of New Brunswick and the pioneering 4-4-0 disappeared from the letters of eastern Canada. Fortunately however, large supplies of unused stamps of the Province of New Brunswick came into the hands of collectors, at this time and they are still quite common.

For the next sixty years, no trains or engines appeared on Canada's postage stamps, but in 1927, a special series commemorated the 60th Anniversary of Confederation. The orange 20-cent special delivery stamp bore scenes representing transportation, including a modern steam-hauled passenger train, going through the Rocky Mountains. One year later, in 1926, a 5-cent stamp of Newfoundland showed a four-car passenger train, with a 4-6-2 steam engine as motive power. The whole was labelled "Express crossing Newfoundland". It is interesting to speculate where the perfectly straight, level double-track might be found on the notoriously curved and undulating main line of the Newfoundland Railway.



Early in 1929, a new "regular issue" twenty-cent stamp appeared in Canada. This bright red and white stamp showed a western prairie scene complete with a railway train having an open-end observation car on the rear and heading in the direction of the distant Rocky Mountains.





This stamp was discontinued after three years, and then followed a further two decades of "trainless" Canadian stamps. During this time occurred the Centennial of Canada's Railways and the Government was petitioned to issue a special stamp in 1936 to commemorate this anniversary. However, it seemed that Ottawa did not then feel that this was of sufficient importance and no such stamp was ever produced. Eventually in 1951, the Centennial of postage stamps in Canada was commemorated by a series of four new values, the black 4-cent of which made up for the previous omission by portraying TWO trains, - one being that of the Bytown & Prescott Railway in the 1850's and the other a modern diesel-hauled passenger train of 1951. The latter was a C.P.R. train hauled by a C.N.R. engine! 1963 saw the issuance of a 5-cent commemorative for the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Sir Casimir Gzowski, and beside the portrait of the renowned engineer, is a Grand Trunk Railway steam engine of the 1860's.

While these are the only Canadian postage stamps on which trains or engines are seen, one must not forget the 12-cent variety of 1928 showing the famous Quebec Bridge, nor the \$ 1 value of 1946, depicting the train-ferry S.S. ABEGWEIT, on her voyage between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The 10-cent Macdonald-Cartier commemorative of 1914 was designed to include an 1860 view of the Victoria Bridge at Montreal, but the stamp was never released due to the outbreak of World War I and today less than half-a-dozen specimens exist.

Now the TURBOTRAIN appears on Canada's mail and, at long last a train is shown on a stamp of regular issue in nationwide service. May both it and its prototype enjoy many years of service in the time to come.

As a "P.S." to the article by Mr. F.F. Angus, on "Railway Trains on Canada's Stamps", our Director of Membership and Branches, Mr. J.A. Beatty, asks us to remind the members that the Post Office Department of the Government of Canada continues to insist that the following information be added to your address, on the envelope of CANADIAN RAIL and other communications from the Association:

- your apartment number, if applicable, and
- the postal zone, according to the recently-established urban divisions.

It sometimes happens that communications not having this information are returned to the sender as "undeliverable" because of "insufficient address". To avoid this embarrassing situation, check the address on this envelope for CANADIAN RAIL, and write us IMMEDIATELY with the necessary corrections. Why wait 'till Spring ? Do It Now !