



The first Canadian stamp was the "threepenny red beaver" issued by the Province of Canada on April 23, 1851. Designed by Sandford Fleming (later knighted), it is valued at \$4,500 in "superb mint condition". A "red orange beaver" of the same quality would fetch \$6,000. There were 150,200 issued.

The "twelvepenny black" of Queen Victoria is a rarity today worth \$16,000 for "fine" mint specimens. The colony of Canada issued 1,450 in June 1851. In 1969 one unused pair was sold for \$44,200. The "2-cent Large Queen" issued April 1, 1868 is a greater treasure. There are only two known copies, both used, and valued at \$30,000.

Daily mail service across Canada began in 1896; air mail service began in 1928.

Notable recent issues include a stamp featuring a pair of 12-penny Queen Victoria stamps of 1851 and two stamps celebrating the two-hundredth anniversary of Captain James Cook's explorations of Canada's west coast.

Canada Post commemorates the eleventh Commonwealth Games with six stamps.