

Bush aircraft on new stamp issue



Canada Post has issued the last four stamps in its Canadian aircraft series, featuring bush planes.

'The bush aircraft hastened the development of the remote areas of our country and added a distinctive Canadian touch to world aviation,' said André Ouellet, Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation in announcing the stamps.

The two 30-cent postage stamps feature the Fairchild FC-2W1 and the de Havilland Canada Beaver, and the 60-cent stamp shows the Fokker Super Universal and the Noorduyn Norseman.

Although Fairchild FC-2W1 was not built in Canada, several of them gained fame in Canada by flying the first airmail run to Sept-Îles and dropping the mail by parachute. In 1928 the aircraft helped in the rescue of some German flyers stranded in the Strait of Belle Isle.

The de Havilland Canada Beaver was designed shortly after the Second World War and first flew in 1947. Almost 1700 of the aircraft were built in Canada and were sold to Canadian customers as well as to foreign customers in more than 60 countries.

Canadian Vickers Limited of Montreal built 15 Fokker Super Universals. The aircraft was known for its durability. For example, after having been abandoned in a 1929 Arctic expedition and recovered 11 months later, one plane started with little trouble. In another instance, a Super Universal that had sunk in the Burnside River flew perfectly when salvaged.

The Noorduyn Norseman went into production in Montreal and was the work of Robert Noorduyn, an expatriate Dutchman who arrived in Canada in 1934. A notable feature of the single-engined monoplane was its ability to take off and land in a relatively short distance carrying a heavy cargo.

The bush aircraft stamps were designed by Robert Bradford and Jacques Charette of Ottawa. The aircraft depicted on the stamps are as follows: Roméo Vachon's FC-2W1 delivering mail; the prototype Beaver, now in the National Aeronautical Collection; "Punch" Dickens' Super Universal G-CASK; and the Norseman as a Saskatchewan air ambulance.

Further information on Canadian stamps is available from the Philatelic Service, Canada Post, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0B5.

Cover photo
Space shuttle using
manipulator arm to place
Canadian communications
satellite into space.
Drawing done using
Telidon's revolutionary
Picture Description
Instructions Language.
Courtesy of Poulter
Computervision, Leeds

Events

This column does not present a complete listing of Canadian events in the United Kingdom. Readers requiring further information are requested to contact the Cultural Affairs Division, Canada House. Regarding Canadian studies contact Academic Relations Division

Exhibitions

Michael Hayden and
Craig Tandy
Kinetic and light sculptures
Canada House
26 January - 22 February

Three sculptors
Angela Haupt,
E J Lightman,
and David Pellitier
Edinburgh College of Art,
22 January - 22 February
Gardiner Centre Gallery,
Brighton, 21 Feb - 11 Mar
Cartwright Hall, Bradford,
25 March - 8 May

Gershon Iskowitz
Paintings
Canada House
2 March - 31 March

David Boldoc,
Paul Fournier
and K M Graham
Walker Art Gallery
Liverpool
4 March - 10 April

Recent large scale drawings

Music

Jane MacKenzie and
Roger Vignoles
Soprano and piano
Canada House
19 February

Toronto Symphony
Orchestra
Manchester, 27 February
Leeds, 28 February
Birmingham, 1 March
Reading, 3 March
Royal Festival Hall,
London 4 - 5 March

Timothy Blackmore
Piano
Canada House
7 May

Daniel Domb
Cello
Canada House
28 March

Film Canada House Cultural Centre Cinema

March - The Grierson Influence
Grierson, Drifters, and
extracts from Man with
a Movie Camera, Nanook
of the North, and
Battleship Potemkin
11 March

Films from the GPO,
EMB, and the Crown
Film Unit
18 March

A documentary context -
speaker and films
20 March

Grierson, the documen-
tary and the NFB -
speaker and films
24 March

Challenge for Change -
speaker and films
25 March

Drifters, plus discussion
with invited speakers
27 March

Playreadings Canada House Cultural Centre
Jennie's Story
by Betty Lambert
14 April

Canadian studies

Conference of the
Association of Canadian
Studies in Ireland
St. Patrick's College
Maynooth, Co Kildare
8 April - 10 April

British Association of
Canadian Studies Annual
Conference
University of Leeds
11 - 13 April

Canada in French
Studies Conference
Univ. of Birmingham
28 - 30 March