

## CENTENNIAL STAMPS

Two 6-cent stamps that are to be released by the Canada Post Office on January 27, the first produced under the guidance of the Department's new Design Advisory Committee, will mark the centennial celebrations of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.



Manitoba's central geographic position at the crossroads of Canada is represented by the symbolic design created for this 40-mm. x 24-mm. stamp by K.C. Lochhead of the province's capital, Winnipeg. The Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, will produce 38 million of these stamps in red, blue and yellow, using the lithographic printing process.

In the Northwest Territories Stamp, (30 mm. x 24 mm.) printed in red and black by the steel-engraving process, is a reproduction of *Enchanted Owl*, by the Eskimo Kenojuak, one of the most



highly regarded artists in the Northwest Territories. Norman E. Hallendy and Sharon Van Raalte of Ottawa collaborated in producing the design for this stamp, 30 million of which will also be printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company.

Both stamps will be on sale for six months.

## POSTAGE STAMP PROVINCE

When it came into being in 1870, Manitoba, by reason of its small area, quickly acquired the title of "the postage-stamp province". It was the first province to enter Confederation after the original four in 1867. Subsequent extensions, principally by Acts in 1881 and 1912, created the Manitoba of today, which has a population of nearly a million people in an area of 251,000 square miles extending some 761 miles north from the international border. Nearly 65 per cent of Manitoba consists of forest and fresh water.

The 1,304,903 square miles of the NWT comprise about one third of Canada's total area. It was not until 1967, Canada's centennial year, that the Territorial administrative seat of government was moved to Yellowknife. Before that, in 1963, a full-time Commissioner, based in Ottawa, had been appointed to build a Territorial administration.

## PHILATELISTS' CHRISTMAS BONUS

The Canada Post Office has announced that a quantity of improperly registered 6-cent Christmas stamps were included in the 100 million that went on sale to the public in October.

The stamps were printed by four-color lithography. The mis-register occurred during production, when some stamps did not receive the black color that was used on the design frame, the wording "Canada Christmas-Noël", the denomination "6" and the miniature year date, "1969".

It is estimated that 400 defective stamps were shipped from the manufacturer in the general distribution to post offices.

The Department has recovered 209 of the mis-registered stamps, and it is therefore probable that the remaining 191 have been bought by customers.

It has not been necessary to make any withdrawal of the 6-cent Christmas issue from stock or from circulation on this account.

The interest, by collectors, in this year's Christmas issue has been above average.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO BASE

Flying operations at Decimomannu, Italy, by Canada's NATO Air Division in Europe will end next spring, and all Canadian activities in that area will end by September.

Canada has participated with Italy and West Germany in the operation and maintenance of the installation under an agreement signed in December 1959. The facility provides training in air weapons for Europe-based pilots of strike and reconnaissance aircraft from all three nations. Some 80 Canadians are stationed at Decimomannu.

The decision to cease operations is a result of recently-announced changes to the Canadian Forces in Europe and the subsequent reduction in strength of the air division from six to three squadrons.

Arrangements are being made for Canadian pilots with the air division to carry out air-weapons training at other locations.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index (1961-100) increased by 0.5 per cent to 127.4 from its October level of 126.8. In November 1969, the level was 4.5 percent higher than in November 1968. Six of the seven main components registered increases in the latest month. Food advanced by 0.8 per cent after two successive months of decline, housing increased by 0.4 per cent and transportation moved up by 0.7 per cent, mainly in response to higher prices associated with the introduction of the 1970 car models. The recreation-and-reading index rose by 0.3 per cent, while the clothing and the health-and-personal care indexes each increased by 0.2 per cent. The tobacco-and-alcohol index declined by 0.1 per cent.