

Companion of the Order of Canada awards

Five Canadians recently received Canada's highest award, the insignia of a Companion of the Order of Canada, for their contributions and work in Canada and abroad.

The presentations were made by Governor General Jeanne Sauvé at a ceremony on October 3.

Ludmilla Chiriaeff, founder of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, was honoured for her contribution to the development of ballet in Canada; Frances G. Halpenny was recognized for her efforts as editor of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*; Joseph Morris, an outstanding figure in the Canadian trade union movement, has become a leader in international labour circles; and Oscar Peterson, who is considered to be one of the world's finest jazz pianists, was recognized for his efforts as a Canadian musical ambassador as a result of his many world tours. John Laskin also received an insignia on behalf of his father, the late chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Bora Laskin.

During the presentation ceremony, 23 Canadians received the insignia of an Officer of the Order of Canada and 46 received the insignia of a Member of the Order of Canada.



Mrs. Sauvé presents the insignia of a Companion of the Order of Canada to Frances Halpenny, editor of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

Spiritual theme adopted on Christmas stamps

The 1984 Christmas stamps issued by Canada Post Corporation feature religious paintings by three Canadian artists.

Religious themes have often been the source of artistic inspiration. The Annunciation, or Ave Maria, and the Nativity are perhaps the themes most frequently dealt with in Christian painting, and Canadian painting is no exception to this tradition.



Mary Bouchard's (1912-1945) *The Three Kings*. This highly coloured painting in the naive style depicts the three kings in the family celebration of Epiphany in the artist's home. The painting is in a private collection.

David Milne's (1882-1953) *Snow in Bethlehem* is portrayed on the 64-cent international rate stamp. The painting is an attempt reflect a religious theme without a preconceived idea and is one of the series of paintings on biblical themes created by Mr. Milne in the early 1940s. It is in the collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The Christmas stamps were designed by Montreal graphic designers Jean Morin and Tom Yakobina and produced in four-colour lithography.

Stick 'n Tick labels

Canadians were able to mail their Christmas cards at a 12 per cent discount rate this year through the use of special code labels.

The program, called Stick 'n Tick, provided customers with stamps to stick in the usual upper right hand corner of an envelope and postal code labels that could be ticked with a pen or pencil after they were placed in the bottom right-hand corner. All letters of the alphabet and all digits from zero to ten were included on each label.

The new system was introduced to make Christmas cards readable by the mechanized mail-sorting equipment now in use in major post offices across the country.

Canada Post first experimented with the scheme in Winnipeg last Christmas. This year the discount was offered in the Ottawa-Hull metropolitan area; London, Ontario; Victoria, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Quebec City. While the discount stamps could only be bought in these areas, they could be mailed anywhere in Canada.

The discount was offered as an experiment to see if it would increase use of the postal service.

The actual cost of mailing a domestic-rate card dropped from 32 cents to slightly more than 28 cents. The special stamps and labels were available in sets of 12. Each set cost \$3.39, or 45 cents less than the \$3.84 cost of 12 first-class stamps.

New deal for taxpayers

Revenue Minister Perrin Beatty recently announced a new arrangement for taxpayers aimed at making the tax system simpler, fairer and more accountable.

Under the new plan, taxpayers will be granted an impartial hearing before being required to pay taxes Revenue Canada says they owe.

Businesses will be able to receive advance rulings from the department on possible tax shelters, and Revenue Canada will no longer solicit publicity in tax evasion cases before the courts or begin an investigation on the basis of the taxpayer's prominence.

Mr. Beatty also announced an amnesty on tax evaders, appealing to them to step forward and pay their share without fear of prosecution.

The measures were adopted from proposals made by the Conservative Party's task force on Revenue Canada earlier in 1984.