

Stamps honour painters – Borduas, Varley and Fortin

Three noted Canadian painters, Paul-Emile Borduas, Frederick H. Varley and Marc-Aurèle Fortin were recently honoured by Canada Post with postage stamps.

"The painters we are honouring on these stamps have captured the essence of Canadian character in both its landscapes and its people. They are the custodians of our heritage and our culture has been enriched by their legacy," said Postmaster-General André Ouellet.

Paul-Emile Borduas was born in 1905 in St-Hilaire, Quebec and studied under the well-known artist Ozias Leduc. Borduas was attracted to abstract art and attempted his first such works and with a number of like-minded young followers formed a group called "Les Automatistes".

They mounted several exhibitions and in 1948 published a manifesto, entitled *Refus global*. This inflammatory tract caused the provincial government to fire Borduas from his teaching post. He later left Canada and died in Paris in 1960. The 35-cent stamp features Borduas' painting *Untitled No. 6*. The work is in the Musée d'Art contemporain in Montreal.

Frederick H. Varley was born in England in 1881, immigrated to Canada in 1912, and became a founding member of the Group of Seven in 1920. Although his landscapes received particular acclaim, he preferred painting people. Varley died in 1969. The 17-cent stamp features a self-portrait in oils, painted in 1945. This portrait is a part of the Hart House Collection of Canadian painting and is on loan to the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.

Marc-Aurèle Fortin was born in Ste-Rose, Quebec in 1888. He studied art in Montreal and later abroad. Upon his return he specialized in watercolour landscapes of the St. Lawrence Valley. He died in 1970. The 17-cent stamp shows a landscape painted by Fortin in 1937, titled *A la Baie St-Paul*. The painting is in the collection of the Musée du Quebec in Quebec City.

The format for all three stamps was designed by Pierre Fontain. The Varley and Fortin stamps were printed by Ashton-Potter Limited, Toronto and the Borduas stamp was printed by the British American Bank Note Company Limited, Ottawa.



Forestry accord signed

Canada and China recently signed a memorandum of understanding intended to promote scientific and technical exchanges in forestry.

Environment Minister John Roberts and Yong Wen Tao, Forestry Minister of the People's Republic of China signed the agreement during a visit to Peking by a Canadian delegation led by Mr. Roberts. The Canadian environment minister also met with Vice-Premier Wan Li, Chairman of China's State Agricultural Commission.

The memorandum, which is subject to renegotiation after three years, calls for co-operation in the following areas: forest management; silviculture and regeneration; control of forest pests, tree genetics and tree improvement; forest fire control; forest harvesting operations; and stand tending. The agreement also provides for exchange visits of specialists, research personnel and technologists.

Mr. Roberts was accompanied in China by a technical delegation comprising representatives of the federal and provincial forest services, the forest industry and the forestry academic community. While in China, the technical mission visited reforestation projects and forestry research stations. Sites where tree breeding, protection and plantation forestry are being done were also visited.

Canada-United States social security agreement

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Richard Schweiker recently signed an administrative arrangement in Washington to complete the Canada-U.S. Agreement on Social Security. The master agreement was signed in Ottawa during President Ronald Reagan's official visit in March.

The Canada-U.S. agreement is the fifth of its kind for Canada; others have been signed with Italy, France, Portugal and Greece.

This agreement is the most important in terms of numbers. As many as 20,000 persons could receive benefits from Canada in the first year of implementation. The agreement will come into force as soon as both countries have completed the necessary ratification procedures.