



New Canadian stamps

Postmaster General Jean-Jacques Blais announced recently that the new 50-, 60-, and 75-cent stamps to be issued on December 7 will depict Canadian streets.

The wide main street of a prairie town is illustrated on the 50-cent value, and the 60-cent stamp shows a typical street in the Maritimes, with lively coloured houses clinging to a narrow road that leads down to the sea. The 75-cent stamp shows a city street, with houses of an earlier era — brightly detailed brick and stone buildings — highlighted by intricate

wrought iron and woodwork.

The third set in the Canadian sailing ship series of stamps was issued by the Post Office on November 18.

The ships depicted this year range from the 25-foot *Mackinaw* boat, which was used on various inland lakes for pleasure fishing, to the huge five-masted 1,500-ton schooners used for everything from transoceanic trade to local rum-running. The other two ships included in the set are the three-masted or "tern" schooners, used for international trade, and the "pinky", one of the sturdiest and most seaworthy ships ever to fish off the eastern coast.

Canada Post has announced the initiation of a new stamp series devoted to the Inuit way of life. The first four stamps in the series were issued on November 18. Unlike previous issues depicting native cultures, this series relies solely on the art of the Inuit to tell the story.

The first set shows the various methods of hunting employed by the Inuit as depicted in their prints and sculptures. One pair shows two stonecut prints — a view of a disguised Caribou hunter in a blind, and a walrus hunt. The second pair of stamps shows seal hunting, in an Inuit soapstone sculpture, and fishing with spears, in a stonecut print.

Canada/Japan cultural agreement

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Japanese Ambassador Yasuhiko Nara exchanged the instruments of ratification of the Canada-Japan Cultural Agreement in a brief ceremony in Ottawa, November 16. The agreement was signed in Tokyo on October 26, 1976 in the presence of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki, during Mr. Trudeau's visit to Japan. Since then it has been ratified by both countries.

Mr. Jamieson emphasized the importance Canada attaches to expansion and reinforcement of political, commercial and cultural links which contribute to the mutual understanding between the people of Canada and Japan. Ambassador Nara expressed his full agreement with these sentiments.

The accord not only reflects the growing volume and variety of artistic and academic exchanges, but provides various ways whereby Japanese and Canadians can come to know and understand each other better. The agreement also reflects

the development of Canadian studies in Japan and Japanese studies in Canada, a program agreed to in principle at the time of the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan to Canada in 1974.

Endangered species protection

Because international trade is aggravating the status of several endangered species, 40 countries, including Canada, have signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Representatives of these nations recently met in Geneva to discuss the definition and listing of endangered species, the humane transportation of animals, and the training of customs officers in the identification of endangered animals and animal products.

"Canada has an obligation to the world's wildlife and other countries to discourage the vanity use of endangered species," says John Heppes, of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Canadian administrator of the convention.

"The tiger now numbers only 4,000 on the entire earth. Tigers and other endangered species are disappearing from underdeveloped countries partly because some affluent nations allow the import of illegally obtained items such as spotted cat coats or exotic pets. Without the richer countries as markets, this plunder of the wild could not continue."

Protective permits

When listed by the convention as rare and endangered, potentially endangered, or in need of protection through international co-operation, a species requires an export permit from the country of origin before a participating country of destination will allow its importation. Those species listed as rare and endangered must also be covered by an import permit.

The Canadian working group at the meeting included scientific representatives from the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Fisheries Research Branch of the Department of Fisheries and the Environment, Canada Customs, the National Museum, the Royal Ontario Museum, and a representative of the provinces.