

# The Ontario Philatelist

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## The Telegraph Stamp of Canada

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The telegraph stamps of Canada are probably the least known of any of the stamps issued in Canada, and below will be a complete description of varieties that have been issued:

The first to issue Franks was the C. P. R. telegraph company, and the designs are as follows: It consists of a unique map of North America in a circle, around which are the words, "Canadian Pacific Railway" above, and "Telegraph" below, with half of the date at each side of the map. Below the circle is the signature of the manager, and below this, in a straight line, the word, "complimentary"; at the top of the stamp the word "Frank," and below this the registered number in red. They were issued as follows:

DATE	COLOR
1887	Black
1889	"
1890	"
1891	"
1892	"
1893	"
1894	"
1895	"
1896	"

This is a complete list, and these stamps are very rare. The only complete sets that I have ever seen

are the sets in pairs in my own collection. They were printed by the British America Bank Note Co. of Montreal, and came in blocks of 4 in books of 25 each. They are very hard to obtain, as it is only through the head office that they are disposed of.

The next company that issued them was the G. N. W. telegraph company, and these may be described as follows: They are all of the same design, only printed in a different color each year. These stamps, although not so finely engraved as the C. P. R., are lithographed and on a different class of paper. The design consists of "Great Northwestern telegraph company" in a half circle; inside this, a little lower, the words "of Canada"; below this, in two straight lines, "Frank No.;" and below this again a blank space, in which is printed the registered number; in a curved line across the bottom, "Complimentary"; above this a fac simile signature of H. P. Dwight, the vice-president and general manager; at the top, in each corner between the two dates, the word "the." The groundwork of the stamp is composed of fine engraved lines.

DATE	COLOR
1890	Blue
1891	Carminé
1892	Olive green
1893	Chocolate