

includes books presented by friends.

Some of the volumes record special interests of the chancellor: a number of gothic novels signed by their authors and one set – the *Horrid Novels of Jane Austen* – sent by the author, Dr. D.P. Varma, as “a sampling of the light-reading of ‘our’ ancestors”. There are also books on Canadian history.

One book in the collection commemorates the chancellor’s installation. Given by the author, the book, *Maritain on the Nature of Man in a Christian Democracy*, bears the inscription: “For the Library of Queen’s University, on the occasion of my husband becoming Chancellor.” It is signed, “Norah Willis Michener”.

New stamps honour postal employees

Six new stamps marking the centenary of letter-carrier service in Canada and honouring postal employees will be issued on June 11.

The new stamps depict a letter carrier, a rural mail courier, a mail-service courier, a postmaster, a mail-handler and postal clerks, including a supervisor.



In announcing the new issue, Postmaster General André Ouellet stated: “The issue of these six stamps is an occasion for all of us to remember 100 years of dedicated, important service to the Canadian public by letter carriers. But more than that, the issue gives us a chance to remember not just the postman who makes the daily rounds, but the thousands of men and women throughout the postal service who serve the public every day....”

History of postal system
Canada’s first unofficial letter carriers were the Indian runners who carried

messages between neighbouring tribes. The official runner of the Iroquois tribe carried a string of white wampum beads if the message was of peace, prosperity for goodwill, and blue heads for war, disaster or death.

During the days of the fur trade, voyageurs, *coureurs de bois*, and Indian couriers carried mail and messages to the settlers, officials and missionaries in outlying areas. Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary at Huronia on Georgian Bay, wrote in his journals (1625-39) of an Indian courier who memorized 20 business trans-



actions in detail. The courier, arriving in Montreal, transmitted the transactions, and at the end of the 800-mile round trip, gave Brébeuf the answers he received on each transaction.

The first official letter carrier in Canada appointed in 1705, was a Portuguese, Pedro da Silva, who was commissioned to carry official dispatches between Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal. He bolstered his salary by carrying private letters at a fee based on distance travelled.

A friendly service
Before a postal system was available, anyone in New France who wished to send mail to Europe arranged with friends in Quebec to take their letters



to the captain of an outgoing ship. Friends would also pick up incoming letters and arrange for their delivery by da Silva or some other hired person.

In 1851, the provinces of British North America took over from Britain responsibility for administering the postal service. In that same year, the first Canadian stamps for prepayment of postage were issued.

With Confederation in 1867 the Canada Post Office was formed and took over the responsibility of the provinces in postal matters.

At the time of Confederation, letter-carrier delivery service was available in certain large cities, but in addition to the postage paid by the sender, the recipient had to pay a fee upon delivery. The only exception to this was Halifax, Nova Scotia, where free letter-carrier delivery service had been established in 1851.

On October 1, 1874, free letter-carrier delivery service was introduced by the Canada Post Office in Montreal. The following year Toronto, Quebec, Ottawa and Hamilton, Ontario also received this service.

Today some 13,000 letter carriers in Canada serve over five million points of call in more than 260 communities. A total of 52,000 men and women are employed by the Canada Post Office.

Marks & Sparks – Canadian style

One of Britain’s most well known chain stores, Marks & Spencer’s, has opened its first store in Toronto (in addition to the number of small shops it already has in the city) and a recent issue of *Canada-United Kingdom Trade News* wonders how soon it will be before “Marks and Sparks” becomes as much a part of the Canadian way of life as it is of the British.

Another full-scale store is planned for Toronto and there will also be three in Montreal and one each in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. Most of them will be in operation by autumn.

The British company has a tradition of success – indeed, it is now almost a legend with its classic story of a business that began as a one-man band in the last century and developed to its present size of over 250 stores in Britain.