

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

QUEEN'S CANADIAN TOUR

Mr. William Hamilton, Postmaster General, has announced the design of a new postage stamp to be issued in honour of the visit of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip to Canada this year. The commemorative stamp will be placed on sale to the Public on June 18, the day on which the Royal Couple will arrive at the airport at Torbay, Newfoundland.

The design of the stamp includes a likeness of Her Majesty taken from the well-known painting by Pietro Annigoni, which was commissioned in 1954 by the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers and which now hangs in their Hall near London Bridge. The dark red stamp is of the five-cent denomination, measures one inch wide and one and one-half inches high, and is printed in vertical format in panes of fifty stamps each.

The Postmaster General pointed out that this is the third occasion on which the issue of commemorative stamps has marked the visit to Canada of a reigning sovereign. Three special stamps were issued in 1939 at the time of the Royal Visit of the late King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. In 1957 when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip arrived in this country for the first time after the coronation of Her Majesty, the postal tribute was a five-cent stamp portraying the profiles of the Royal Couple taken from a photograph by Karsh of Ottawa.

Authority to use the painting by Pietro Annigoni in the production of this stamp was obtained from the London "Times" which holds the world copyright for the owners. Two years ago the plate was engraved and it was held for use when a suitable occasion would arise. Keen-eyed observers will see that the year of the engraving - "1957" - appears in minute characters in the lower left-hand corner of the stamp. The numerals are inconspicuous and are not an integral part of the main design.

SEAWAY OPENING

The designs for the St. Lawrence Seaway commemorative postage stamps to be issued jointly by Canada and the United States have been released simultaneously in Ottawa and Washington.

Except for the necessary differences in captions and denominations, the stamps are identical in design, the result of the cooperative efforts of Canadian artists A.L. Pollock and Gerald Trotter, and American artists William H. Buckley, Arnold J. Copeland and Ervine Metzl.

The stamps are in the 5-cent denomination for Canada and the 4-cent denomination for the United States, these being the respective rates for first class letter mail in each country. Forty million of the Canadian stamps

and 120 million of the American stamps will be issued.

The Canadian stamp is bilingual with the heading "St. Lawrence Seaway Voie Maritime du ST-LAURENT", and the caption "Postage Postes" reproduced in both English and French. The United States version carries the caption "St. Lawrence Seaway" across the top of the stamp; "United States" across the bottom. The wording "Postage" is at the left and the denomination "4¢" at the right.

The stamps for both nations will be printed in red and blue on white paper thereby utilizing the national colours of red, white and blue for both countries. Both stamps will have the Great Lakes and connecting links of the design on a blue background with captions in red.

Reproduced in white on both stamps are the emblems of both nations, the Maple Leaf for Canada, and the Eagle for the United States, enclosed in interlocking links superimposed over a background of the Great Lakes.

The Canadian stamp, as is customary will have "First Day of Issue" cancellation in Ottawa.

The First-day sale of the American stamp will be at Massena, N.Y. the site of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation in the United States. The two stamps will be placed on sale on June 26, 1959, the date on which the opening ceremony will be held by both countries.

This is the first occasion that Canada and the United States have issued a stamp jointly.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

A third stamp will be issued on May 13 to commemorate the development of the Canadian Women's Institutes, les Cercles des Fermières, and similar groups in other countries into the world-wide organization of about six million women known as the Associated Country Women of the World.

The green and black commemorative stamp of the 5¢ denomination was designed by Helen Fitzgerald of Toronto and depicts a female figure kneeling beside a tree over which the globe is poised. The words, "Associated Country Women of the World" and "Union mondiale de Femmes rurales" form the border. The design symbolizes growth, as cultivated by country women, of individual country organizations into the world association as represented by the globe.

Canadians have a particular interest in the movement as the idea of the Women's Institute was conceived in 1897 by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton, the first Institute coming into being at Stoney Creek, Ont. Another Canadian, Mrs. Alfred Watt, O.B.E. spread the idea of an international organization to Europe. At a meeting in Stockholm in 1933 she was named the first president of the Associated Country Women of the World, as a mark of esteem for her extensive efforts to unite rural women's clubs into an international body.