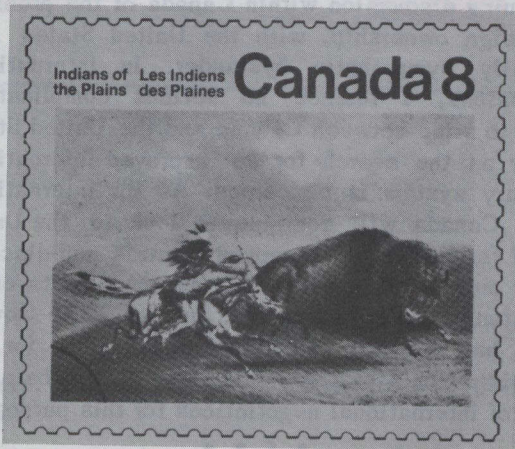


## CANADIAN INDIAN STAMPS

Two 8-cent stamps featuring the artifacts and way of life of Canada's Plains Indians were issued by the Canada Post Office on July 6. They are the first of a series of 20 stamps depicting cultural features of various Indian peoples of Canada that will be issued during the next three years.



The design for one of the stamps is taken from the print *Buffalo Chase* by George Catlin, an American artist of the nineteenth century, who was renowned for his study and portrayal of Indian life.



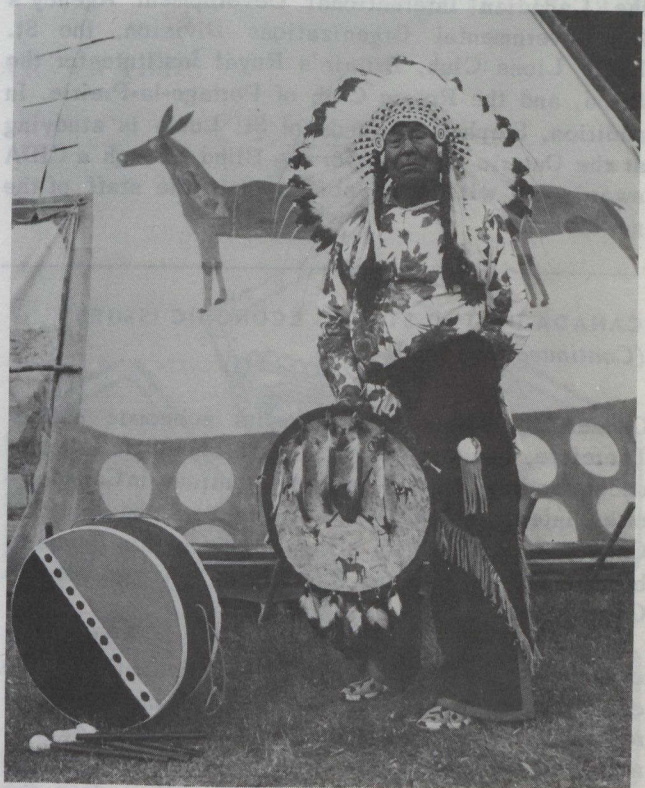
The other stamp design was created from a photograph by Ray Webber of Toronto. The objects shown in the photograph are a club, a feather headdress, a woman's saddle, a beaded saddle-bag, a moccasin, a decorated bison skull, a *parfleche* bag and a calumet (clay pipe). They were photographed through the co-operation of the Royal Ontario Museum and the National Museum of Man. The layout and typography of both stamps were done by Georges Beaupré of Montreal.

### INDIANS OF THE PLAINS

The Plains Indians comprised many tribes speaking a variety of tongues. They ranged over the vast

prairies of North America in pursuit of the bison, on which they depended for their survival. Its flesh was used as food, the skins as clothing and equipment, the bones for tools and arrow-tips, and the dung as fuel.

Among the Plains tribes were the Blackfoot, the Sarsi the Plains Cree, the Assiniboin, and the Plains Ojibwa. These shared a general culture, though their spoken languages were of three distinct stocks: Athapaskan, Siouan and Algonkian. Ranging over the primary habitat of the bison in Canada they occupied the southern reaches of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.



*A Plains Indian Chief at the Calgary Stampede*

The basic social unit of the Plains Indians was the band, a local group which jointly camped and hunted during much of the year under one leader. In summer the tribal bands united in large camp circles and the social and religious affairs of the tribe were governed by a political organization of their chiefs.

They were a nomadic people whose annual round of life was closely adapted to the habits of the herds of bison. During the autumn and winter the bison dispersed in small herds, seeking shelter and forage along streams or migrating south. The Indians followed, each band seeking a traditional wintering area where fuel, shelter and hunting were adequate. In the summer when the bison congregated in enormous herds for feeding and mating, the tribal bands joined forces through the camp circle for communal hunting.