

Press Release

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Matthew Weigman
Lauren Gioia
(212) 606-7176
fax: (212) 606 7381

SOTHEBY'S TO OFFER STAMPS FROM BRITISH NORTH AMERICA THE SEVENTH SALE OF STAMPS FROM THE COLLECTION OF SIR GAWAINE BAILLIE

AUCTION OF MORE THAN 1,400 STAMPS
WILL BE HELD IN NEW YORK ON MAY 10-12, 2006

On May 10-12, 2006, Sotheby's New York will present a sale of more than 1,400 stamps from **British North America** that come from the most important collection to appear on the market in more than 50 years.



Assembled by Sir Gawaine Baillie, 7th Bt (1934-2003), the collection was almost entirely unknown to international collectors and boasts highlights that have not been seen on the market for several decades. The upcoming sale will be the seventh in a series of ten auctions which has, thus far, totalled more than \$17 million, nearly reaching the estimate for the entire collection - \$20 million. The May sale will feature stamps dating from 1851 to 2000, many of which are the finest known examples. Among the highlights is a rare, unused example of Canada's most famous stamp - an 1851 Laid Paper 12 pence black - which is in nearly flawless condition and estimated to sell for \$100/120,000. Other rare examples from British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland will also be offered. Prior to the

auction, the stamps will be available for public viewing in Sotheby's 2nd floor galleries from May 5th -9th.

About the Collector

Sir Gawaine Baillie was raised at Leeds castle, the ancient fortress in Kent that his mother Lady Olive Baillie had bought with her sister Dorothy Paget in 1928. At age five, after World War II broke out, Baillie went to live with his American cousins, the famous Whitney family. Soon after returning to England, his

father died, and he succeeded to the family title, becoming 7th Baronet of Polkemmet, Linlithgowshire. Following Eton and Cambridge, he started a successful engineering business while also embarking on a successful career as an amateur motor racing driver. He competed at the highest professional level with such legendary figures as Stirling Moss, Mike Hawthorne and Jackie Stewart, participating in numerous championships, including Le Mans 24 Hours, Goodwood, Aintree, Silverstone and the Tour de France. Upon retiring from motor racing, he concentrated on building up his engineering business and returned to his boyhood passion of collecting stamps.

One of the characteristics of Sir Gawaine's motor racing was the meticulous care and attention he paid to every aspect of the preparation of his cars for each race. This attention to detail and quality stood him in good stead both in regard to his engineering company and his stamp collecting. He aimed to form a comprehensive collection of postage stamps of Great Britain and the British Empire, starting with the earliest issues of Queen Victoria through to the most recent of our times. His criteria were that the stamps should all be unused and in perfect condition. Considering that many of the world's rare stamps are extant in single figures and of those, the majority are in institutional collections, he had chosen to embark on a massive and formidable project. By patiently reviewing auction catalogues for almost three decades, to the greatest possible extent, he accomplished his objective, and in doing so he taught himself all the subtleties of at least ten areas of specialisation and acquired over 100,000 stamps, all of which live up to his exacting standards.



British North America

Highlighting the May sale is one of the finest examples of the most famous stamp of Canada - an 1851 Laid Paper 12 pence black, which is estimated to sell for \$100/120,000 (pictured on pg. 1). Issued on June 14, 1851, Canada's 12-penny black features a portrait of the youthful Queen Victoria. Due in part to the fact that it could only be used for a very limited number of postage rates, the 12d stamp saw little use and was on sale for just a few years. In 1857 the remaining unsold 49,550 12d stamps were withdrawn from circulation and destroyed. Richard Ashton, Sotheby's Philatelic specialist, noted, "To have this iconic stamp of Canada in such flawless condition is quite exceptional."

From the Maritime Provinces is a fine range of the classic issues of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, in each case, the finest known examples. Among the highlights is an example of the rarest stamp of British Columbia - an 1865 Imperforate 5 cents rose (pictured above),



which Mr. Ashton noted is, “widely regarded as the finest unused example in private ownership.” Most examples of this stamp, which was for use on Vancouver Island, are damaged in some way. It is thought that the sheets were torn against a straight edge into horizontal strips and then separated off as required, which often resulted in damage. This example, which is estimated at \$40/50,000, has been very carefully separated by scissors and retains a wide margin all around.

From New Brunswick is one of the finest recorded unused examples of the rarest stamp of New Brunswick - a 1851 1 shilling reddish mauve. The one shilling value of the first series of stamps to be used in New Brunswick remains an extremely rare stamp in unused condition. It's use was strictly limited as the local postage rate was just three pence, so the one shilling was only required for a limited number of postal uses, mostly to destinations on the other side of the world. Consequently, members of the public, who would have purchased a quantity of three pence adhesives for daily use, would only have spent the considerable amount of one shilling when they had a particular use for this stamp. This rare survivor is estimated to sell for \$12/15,000. Also from New Brunswick is an 1860 Compound Die Proof in orange of the “Charles Connell” 5 cents and “Queen Victoria” ten cents. Estimated at \$1,500/2,000, this proof is a poignant reminder of the moment in 1859 when, against the policy of the ‘Empire’, a portrait other than Queen Victoria appeared on a stamp.



The 1851 1 shilling ‘cold violet’ from Nova Scotia is also among the highlights (est. \$20/25,000). As with New Brunswick, the one shilling stamps of Nova Scotia were purchased for use, rather than to be saved in an unused state. The Nova Scotia version is known in three distinct shades, with the ‘cold violet’, which was from the first very small printing, being the rarest. Less than twelve unused examples of the ‘cold violet’ exist in unused condition, and to find an example in such peerless condition is truly remarkable.

The unique, unused example of the 1919 “Martinsyde” Attempted Trans-Atlantic Flight 3 cents from Newfoundland is another spectacular highlight. The stamp is a relic from a contest offered by Lord

Northcliffe, the British press tycoon and owner of the *Daily Mail* newspaper, for the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic by a heavier-than-air machine. Ten entrants announced their participation and the first to arrive was Harry Hawker. Special stamps were prepared for his flight by overprinting current Newfoundland stamps. Among the other participants were Captain Raynam and Major Morgan who planned to make an attempt in their Martinsyde aircraft named "Raymor". Stamps destined for the Martinsyde flight had a manuscript overprint placed on the letter by the postal clerk and were also cancelled by him. Hence, no unused examples should exist. Captain Raynam planned to mail a letter



to family in England and although he handed the letter in to the post clerk, and it therefore bears the manuscript overprint, he asked for the letter back to incorporate some further information about the flight and thus it was returned uncanceled. This rare survivor is estimated to sell for \$50/60,000.

Another Newfoundland stamp included in the May auction is one of the finest known unused examples of the 1860 1 shilling orange vermillion which is estimated at \$20/25,000. There was only a total printing of just 1,000 copies in orange vermillion and very few in any condition have survived, let alone in such magnificent condition.

Stamp errors are among the most collectible in the field. One of the most famous errors of all time was the 1959 Opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway 5 cents with the 'Centre Inverted' and Sotheby's May auction will feature an extremely rare block of four which is estimated to sell for \$40/50,000. It is thought that two sheets of this commemorative stamp were printed with the centre inverted. Very few multiples exist as most of the known examples were separated into single stamps for sale to collectors.



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