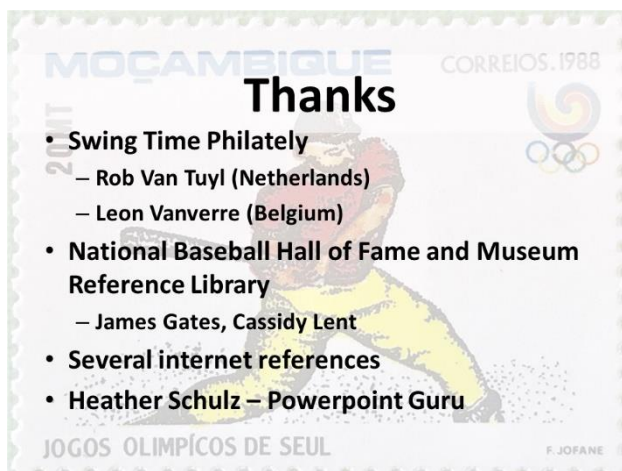


I plan to present a number of historical events that have been depicted and honoured in commemorative postage stamps from around the world. I gratefully acknowledge two key sources for the presentation material. First, there's a great stamp collecting group called Swing Time Philately based in the Netherlands and

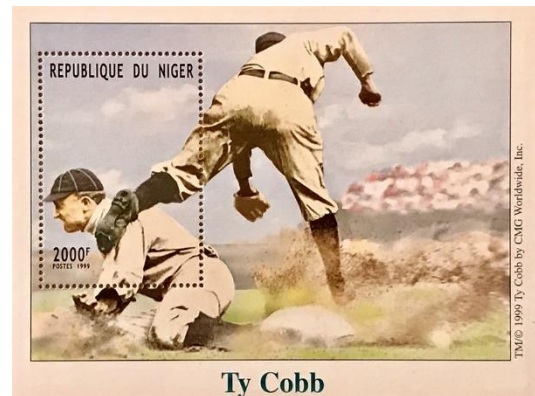


Belgium. Rob Van Tuyl and Leon Venverre research baseball and golf postage stamps around the world, and maintain a detailed catalogue for the group's membership. They also put together a newsletter with articles on both sports and their related postage stamps. Thanks as well to the reference library at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

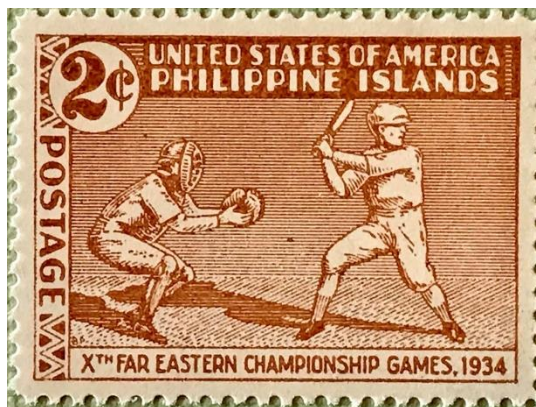
Both Cassidy Lent and Jim Gates were both very interested in this project and helpful in providing all that the library had to offer.

My goal in this presentation is to share some stories about baseball that you might not be aware of that have been celebrated in postage stamps. Stamps selected represent a good cross section from just a few of the countries and the various topics covered in the many issues. Included are some that have a Canadian connection, especially the six stamps issued by Canada.

It is not my intent to talk about the hobby of baseball stamp collecting, but I will share some interesting data about the stamps that have been issued related to baseball. The word 'topical' in stamp collecting is used to identify a common theme or subject matter. Baseball topicals are one of the more popular topicals in all of stamp collecting.



Any guesses as to where, when and why the first baseball stamp was issued? The very first baseball stamp was issued in the Philippines on April 4, 1934. The three stamp set, also featuring basketball and tennis, commemorates the 10th Far Eastern Championship Games, a sort of regional Olympics, which

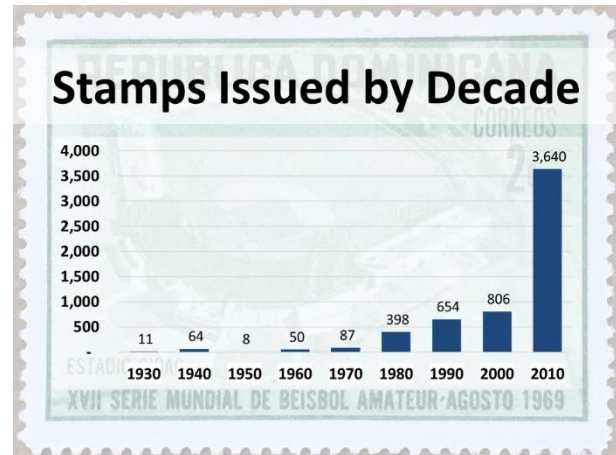


were held in Manila that year. These games included eight sports contested over four days, generally among China, Japan and the Philippines. This particular set of games also included the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). The Philippines won the medal for baseball. The 10th edition was the final time these games were held due to poor relations between China and Japan.

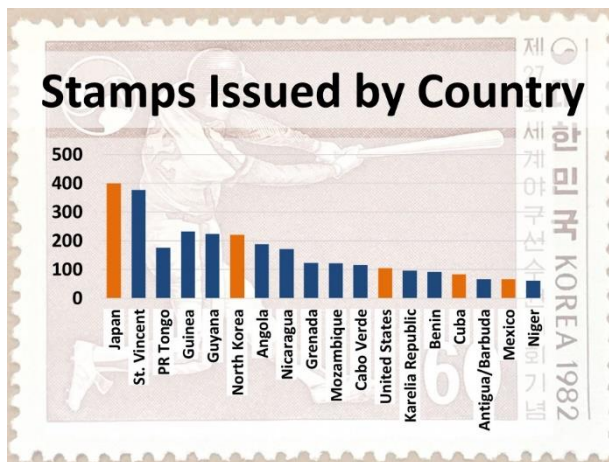
There is some debate as to who really owns the rights to claiming the first baseball stamp -- the Philippines or the United States -- because the Philippines were under American rule following the Treaty of Paris in which Spain ceded its colony to the U.S. following the Spanish-American War of 1898. The Philippines were granted full independence from the U.S. in 1946. There was probably some

influence from the United States for this stamp, but most collectors give the honour to the Philippines.

Now I'd like to discuss some numerical data regarding baseball postage stamps. As of December 2017, the last update to the STP (Swing Time Philately) catalogue, there are 5,718 postage stamps related to baseball in the world. To be considered related to baseball, a stamp can have any reference to baseball including such a small thing as a baseball in a picture, even if the intent of the picture has nothing to do with baseball. We'll actually see three Canadian stamps that fall into this loose category. 170 countries have issued at least one baseball stamp. This bar chart shows the number of stamps issued per decade since 1934. As you can see, it is growing in leaps and bounds.



This next chart shows which countries are the biggest contributors to baseball stamp production. These 19 countries produce just over 50% of all baseball stamps, with the other 151 countries providing the rest. Most of the countries in this top 19 produce stamps merely for the sake of feeding the stamp collecting hobby. Many of them do not even print the stamps in their own country, and those stamps never see the light of day in their home country. They may not even be legal stamps for use in any postal system.



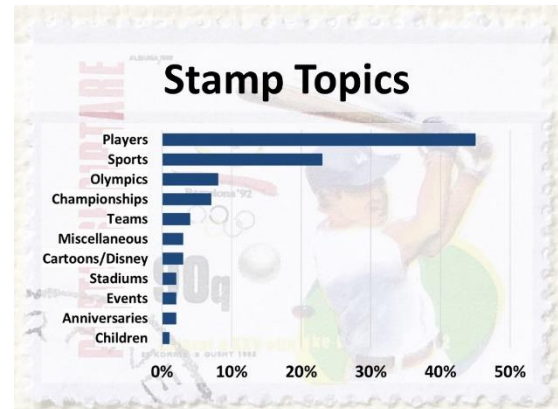
These stamps are often referred to as 'collector' or 'Cinderella' stamps. Their production is simply a money maker for these countries because they've all figured out that

- (a) The world is full of stamp collectors
- (b) The world is full of baseball fans

(c) A lot of stamp collectors are baseball fans and will pay money for stamps depicting baseball

The legitimate countries in this chart are Japan, North Korea, USA, Cuba and Mexico. Of all the 170 countries, I would guess that roughly 50 are legitimate issuers; among them, they've produced just under 1,200 stamps.

I've also used the STP catalogue to see what the common topics are within baseball stamps. Almost 50% of stamps issued are about a specific player. Next is sports in general, in which baseball is included. The Olympics and various World Championships follow. Miscellaneous topics include women in baseball, softball, movies, baseball art and more.



Back to baseball stories, in roughly chronological order. The most difficult baseball stamp to find is this 1935 Colombia stamp. Unfortunately, there is very little information on the 3rd Olympics that are referenced here. It could have been a pre-Olympics games for qualification to the 1936 Olympics, or merely some regional games. In this stamp, you can see the baseball diamond and stadium stands.

This 1-centavo postal tax stamp produced in 1937 by Nicaragua celebrating the 4th Central American games was actually issued with the specific purpose of raising money for the Central American Caribbean Games. Again, unfortunately, very little information is available on these Games, held in Managua, but baseball was a central theme in the Games. A generic batter is shown on four different stamps. Each stamp has the same pose, but four different colours were used.



In 1944, Venezuela heralded the 7th World Amateur Baseball Championship with nine airmail stamps, four of which are shown here. These games have continued over the years and have led to the current World Baseball Classic.



Held in Caracas in October and November that year, there were 8 teams from 2 continents at these games. Venezuela won the tournament with Mexico, Cuba and Panama following in the standings.

This tournament is remembered for a number of controversial umpiring calls. The most notorious took place in a Cuba–Venezuela game in the final phase of the event. After a Venezuelan player made an error during a close play at first, a photographer came over and threw the ball to one of the Venezuelan players, which led to an out. The Cuban manager protested the call and was told by the umpires that photographers were allowed to intervene in the play. As a result of this decision, Cuba withdrew from the Cup. Their remaining game was forfeited, but they were credited with a third-place finish nonetheless.

The third Pan American Games were held in Chicago in the months of August and September in 1959. These were the first Pan Am Games to be held in the northern hemisphere. Chicago stepped in after Cleveland had to back out for financial reasons, and backup host Guatemala had also stepped away. 25 countries competed in 18 sports, Canada placing 5th in the medal count.

Venezuela won its first and only baseball gold medal at these games. Although baseball games were played in Wrigley Field and Comiskey Park, this 1959 Dominican Republic stamp shows Estadio Trujillo, named after their 30-year ruler and dictator Rafael Trujillo. The stadium was renamed Estadio Juan Marichal in 2009 after the Hall of Famer, the first Dominican player to be inducted in Cooperstown.



I've included this stamp, issued in 1962 by Japan, because it is one of the few baseball topical stamps that commemorates softball. The National Sports



Festival of Japan is the national premier sports event in that country for youths and adults. It was started in 1946 and is held annually. Also referred to as the National Athletic Meeting, the 1962 edition held in Okayama was the 17th. Softball and high school baseball are regular events but, depending on the region where the games are played, other types of baseball events

may include mini softball, tee ball, senior softball, boys and girls softball and disabled softball.

Taiwan, also known as the Republic of China (as opposed to the People's Republic of China, which claims sovereignty over Taiwan) celebrated the 1971 Little League World Series championship in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Tainan Little League of Tainan City, Taiwan, defeated the Anderson Little League of Gary, Indiana, in the championship game of this 25th Little League World Series. Canada made it to the quarter finals, losing to Hawaii, who eventually took third place over Spain.



This was the first championship game that was decided in extra innings. The game is the longest championship game in Little League World Series history. Lloyd McClendon played for the Gary, Indiana team and hit 5 consecutive home runs in his 5 official at-bats. He was inducted to the Little League Hall of Excellence in 2006. He played in the major leagues for 4 teams over 7 years and is currently the batting coach for the Detroit Tigers.

These next four stamps, issued in 1984, celebrate 50 years of the Curacao Baseball Federation. Curacao can be found in the Caribbean just north of Venezuela. In 1984, Curacao was part of a group of islands called the Netherlands Antilles, or Dutch Antilles. After the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles in 2010, Curacao became an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



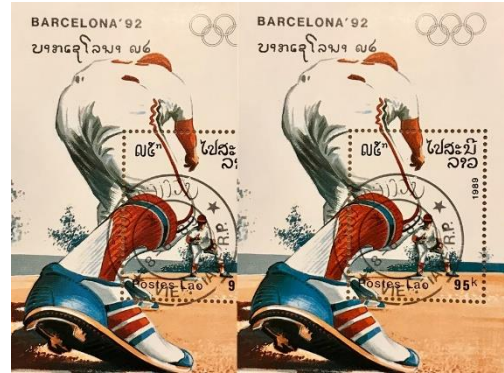
Baseball has been played on Curacao for more than 80 years, reportedly dating to a game between Dominican labourers and Venezuelan fruit sellers. But the island didn't send anyone to the big leagues until 1989, when the New York Yankees called up Hensley “Bam Bam” Meulens. Meulens played 12 seasons in the majors, as well as in Japan and Korea. He is currently a bench coach for the San Francisco Giants.

Meulens helped pave the way for Andruw Jones, who debuted as a teenager with the Atlanta Braves in 1996 and went on to hit 434 home runs, win 10 Gold Gloves and make five All-Star teams. Jones’ success led to a baseball boom on the island. Interest further exploded after a team from Willemstad, which included Texas Rangers infielder Jurickson Profar, won the Little League World Series in 2004.



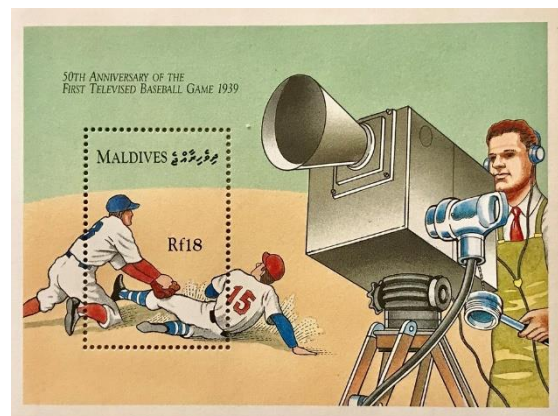
Despite a population of just 160,000, Curacao has sent 14 players to the big leagues since 2000, the most per capita of any country. Another interesting note is that baseball has its highest worldwide per-capita television viewership in Curacao.

Laos, officially the Lao People's Democratic Republic, is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. At the heart of the IndoChinese peninsula, it is bordered by Myanmar (also known as Burma), China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. This stamp from Laos is one of many stamps celebrating the 25th Olympic Games held in Barcelona in 1992. These Summer Olympics were the last to be staged in the same year as the Winter Olympics. Baseball had its debut as an official medal sport at the 1992 Olympics. Eight nations competed, with the preliminary phase consisting of a full round robin of all teams. The baseball event was open only to male amateurs. Cuba won gold, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) silver, and Japan bronze. Canada did not participate in Olympic baseball that year.



The Solomon Islands is a grouping of six islands east of Papua New Guinea. It is best known as the site of the Battle of Guadalcanal, a fierce battle between Japan and the USA during World War II. The stamp is one of a group that focuses on children's games.

The Maldive Islands are located in the Indian Ocean's Arabian Sea. They lie southwest of Sri Lanka and India, and consist of a chain of 26 atolls. This 1989 stamp commemorates the first televised baseball game on May 17, 1939 between U.S. universities Princeton and Columbia. Princeton beat Columbia 2–1 at Columbia's Baker Field. The contest, announced by Bill Stern, was aired on NBC station W2XBS, an experimental station in New York. August 26 of that same year saw the first television broadcast of a Major League Baseball game (once again on W2XBS). With Red Barber announcing, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cincinnati Reds played a doubleheader at Ebbets Field. The Reds won the first game 5–2, while the Dodgers won the second 6–1.

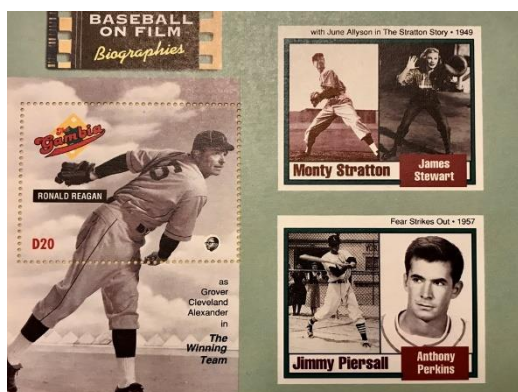
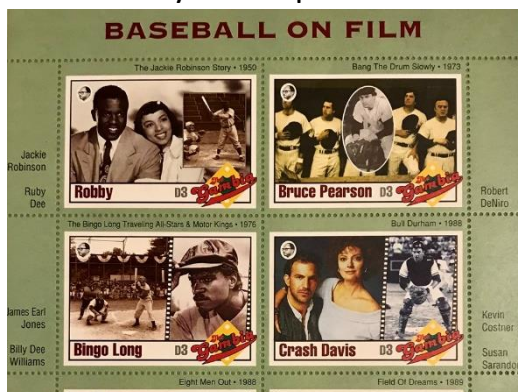


Barber called the game without the benefit of a monitor. There were only two cameras capturing the game: one camera was placed behind home plate, in the second tier of seating, while another was positioned near the visitors' dugout on the third-base side.

The 1991 South Pacific Games, held in Port Moresby and Lae in Papua New Guinea in September of 1991, was the ninth edition of the South Pacific Games. This was the first time that events at one Games had been held in two cities. The decision to do so was made to allow both locations to benefit from the construction of new facilities. Sixteen Pacific nations participated in 17 sports and 164 medal events. Papua New Guinea won the gold medal in softball. They also won most medals in the games, followed by French Polynesia and New Caledonia.



Officially the Republic of The Gambia, this country in West Africa is almost



entirely surrounded by Senegal, the exception being its western coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa. Gambia is one of the big producer of Cinderella or collector stamps. They have produced a few souvenir sheets remembering many of the great baseball movies that have been made over the years, the actors that performed in

these movies, and in some cases, the events and the real people and players in the history of the game.

Antigua and Barbuda is a sovereign state in the West Indies lying between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It consists of these two major islands, Antigua and Barbuda, and a number of smaller islands. This is an interesting stamp issued in 1993 noting an Ebbets Field game in Brooklyn on May 6, 1937. It's called the Hindenburg Game. It also recognizes Dr. Hugo Eckener, an important designer, builder and commander of rigid airships such as the Zeppelin and the Hindenburg.

The game at Ebbets Field in 1937 began as a pitcher's duel. The Pirates couldn't post a hit off Van Lingle Mungo through the first five innings. Likewise, Red Lucas was taming the Dodgers. As the two teams battled on the field, the players and fans suddenly gazed skyward. Several fans began to rise and point to the sky as the mammoth Hindenburg came into view. Its silvery colour showed the reflection of the sun peeking through the clouds. The bright red and black swastikas on its tail end gleamed as it hovered less than 1,000 feet over the field. And then the ship headed south for its destination in Lakehurst, New Jersey.



The excitement that had carried the day turned to shock and disbelief with the news that the famous Hindenburg had exploded and crashed to the field in Lakehurst, taking the lives of 35 of its 97 passengers and crew and one member of the ground crew, and basically ending the era of passenger airship travel.



These next three stamps will focus on depictions of women in baseball. This stamp from the United States in 1995 doesn't have much of a story but recognizes women's softball in a stamp called 'Recreational Sports'.

Another United States stamp is this 1996 issue for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Women's softball made its debut at these Games. It stayed around for three more Olympic Games but was removed in the 2012 and 2016 games. It will be added, along with baseball, in the 2020 games. The softball games were held in Columbus, Georgia, approximately 100 miles from Atlanta.

Countries competing included the United States, China, Australia, Japan, Canada, Taiwan, the Netherlands and Puerto Rico. The United States finished first, China second and Australia third. Canada placed fifth with a 3 and 4 record in round robin play.

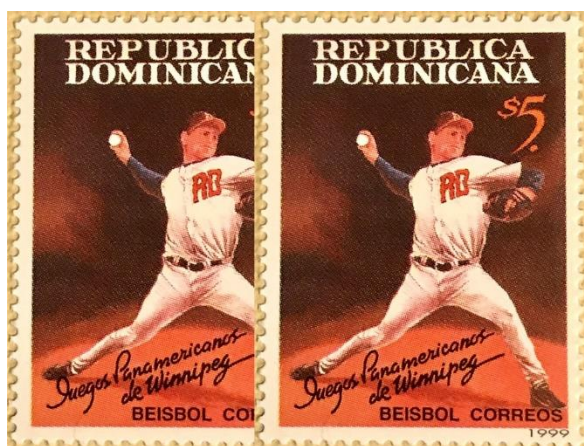


According to Wikipedia, softball was originally developed as a form of indoor baseball by George W. Hancock of the Farragut Boat Club of Chicago in 1887. In 1895, Lewis Rober of the Minneapolis Fire Department adapted the rules for outdoor play, creating the modern version of the game. In its infancy, it was often referred to as kitten ball (after the first team to play it), lemon ball, or diamond ball.

The 1998 ISF (International Softball Federation) Women's World Softball Championship was held in Fujinomiya, Japan, and is noted in this Japanese stamp. A fourth straight title was won by the team from the United States, which avenged its only loss of the tournament to Australia by a 1-0 margin in the final. Canada was 6-0 after the round robin portion of the tournament but went 1-2 after that and did not qualify for the medal round. 17 teams competed.



These next two stamps from Cuba and the Dominican Republic celebrate the thirteenth Pan American Games held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1999. The games were held in July and August with approximately 5,000 athletes from 42 nations participating in 34 sports. These were the second Pan Am Games hosted by Canada and Winnipeg, Winnipeg having hosted the 1967 Pan American Games. Both baseball and softball were played in these games. The 1999 Games



were the first time professional baseball players were allowed to participate. The primary venue for the baseball competition was CanWest Global Park; Stonewall Quarry Park was used as a secondary venue. Cuba won gold, USA silver and Canada bronze.

Men's and Women's softball was played at the John Blumberg Softball Complex. Canada's men won gold over USA and Cuba. Canada's women won silver, behind USA and ahead of Cuba.

Was Liberia celebrating Norman Rockwell or baseball (or both) in this 2005 stamp? As it turns out, the answer is "both". There are five Rockwell paintings in this souvenir sheet --- four in the stamps and one in the large border. The stamp in the border is entitled "100 Years of Baseball" as noted in the bottom left corner. Rockwell was commissioned to create this painting in honour of that anniversary. The other stamps are called Distortion, Summer Vacation, Runaway Pants and Tumble. Liberia, a country on the West African coast bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast and the Atlantic Ocean, has issued 15 stamps pertaining to baseball over the years.



There is no real story to the stamp below called "El Beisbol en Mexico", but I'd never seen a painting of a 3-armed, skull-headed pitcher before. Nor can I

explain the second picture, also from Mexico, but there seems to be a theme of skulls and bones.



The United States Postal Service did some good in 2010 by issuing two stamps remembering Negro Leagues Baseball. The baseball league that helped spark the integration of American professional sports was honoured on a 44-cent U.S. postage stamp first issued at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The stamp pays tribute to the all-black professional baseball leagues that operated from 1920 to about 1960.

In a speech at the unveiling ceremony in Kansas City, it was noted that “In 1920, the first of several black leagues of the modern era was formed right here in

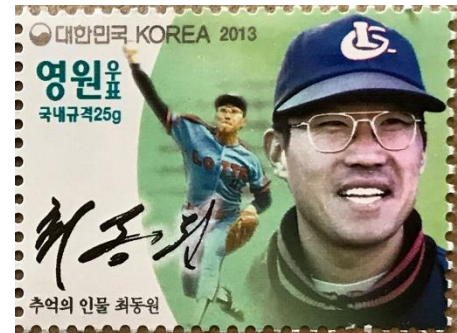


Kansas City. It was called the Negro National League. With the issuance of these stamps, the rich legacy of the Negro Leagues will travel far and wide.” A second commemorative stamp features the league’s founder, Andrew “Rube” Foster, who is considered the father of Negro Leagues Baseball. In 1981, Foster was honoured by the National Baseball Hall of Fame as the “foremost manager and

executive” of Negro Leagues baseball.

Artist Kadir Nelson designed the stamps. A book of his artistry called “We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro Leagues Baseball” was released at the same time as the stamps.

South Korea issued two stamps in 2013 for two of their baseball stars --- Choi Dong Won and Jang Hyo-Jo. Choi Dong Won was a South Korean pitcher in the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO) League who played for the Lotte Giants and Samsung Lions. Choi batted and threw right-handed. After his impressive performances at the 1981 Intercontinental Cup in Canada, the Toronto Blue Jays showed a strong interest in Choi, regarding him as having the potential to play in the big leagues immediately. The Blue Jays' scouts went to see Choi in South Korea six times before signing him to a major league contract, reportedly worth around \$250,000.



Meanwhile, South Korea was in the process of forming its own professional baseball league. When the government discovered Choi was heading to Toronto, it threatened to jail the scouts if they tried to leave the country with the contract. The Blue Jays planned to bring Choi to spring training for the 1983 season, but the government intervened again. Choi was given a choice: serve a mandatory military commitment before going to Canada, or pitch in the Korean professional league and have his military service waived. Choi eventually opted for the latter, after playing in the 1982 Amateur World Series. Choi was selected by the Lotte Giants in the first round of the 1983 draft and was later traded to the Samsung Lions. He retired in 1990.

The other South Korea honouree was Jang Hyo-Jo, an outfielder in the Korean professional baseball league who played for the Samsung



Lions and Lotte Giants. Jang batted and threw left-handed. Jang is widely regarded as one of the best KBO hitters for average of all time. He still holds several records, including the highest career batting average (.331) and most career batting titles with 4. He played for the Samsung Lions starting in 1983 but was traded to Lotte Giants for Choi Dong Won, the player on the other stamp. He played until 1992.

Unfortunately, both men died of cancer in September of 2011 while both in their 50's.

And now we get into some baseball politics and postage stamp hand slapping. In November 1988, Grenada, a very big contributor to Cinderella baseball stamps, issued 81 stamps picturing United States baseball players, in nine souvenir sheets of nine stamps each. Pete Rose was pictured on one stamp, in the lower left-hand corner of one of the sheets as shown here. Major League Baseball, who had given permission to the stamp development company, Philatelic International, to use their MLB logo, asked the company to remove Rose, who was banned from baseball after the major league investigation concluded that he had bet on baseball games. This stamp was issued just a few months after the MLB decision, so it was an even more sensitive subject at the time than it remains today.



So Grenada and Philatelic International created a very subtle solution for this problem: they made new souvenir sheets. The new sheets have a yellow space where the Rose stamp was, with the words "U.S. Baseball Series 1" entered in the middle of the space. Problem solved!! As you can imagine, baseball postage stamp collectors clamoured for copies of the original sheet for their collections.

The U.S. Postal Service in 2001 issued Baseball's Legendary Playing Fields, ten 34-cent commemorative stamps with images of some of the classic ballparks built in the early 1900s. There were official unveiling ceremonies at each of the 10 cities, with the first ceremonies held at each "still standing" stadium on the same day: Tiger Stadium, Fenway Park, Wrigley Field and Yankee Stadium. The stamps were unveiled at Fenway, Wrigley and Yankee in pre-game ceremonies.





Since Tiger Stadium was no longer in use in 2001, the unveiling took place at the park in the morning of the same day. The ceremony, for some reason, was not open to the public (possibly safety concerns at the closed stadium). Attending were former Detroit Tiger greats Gates Brown, Mickey Lolich and Willie Horton.

Now let's focus on the six baseball postage stamps issued here in Canada. The first is barely a "baseball stamp". Canada issued an "Adopt A Pet" stamp on April 22, 2013. Note the baseball on the floor.



Canada issued a commemorative stamp on



August 6, 1993 to recognize the 200th anniversary of the City of Toronto. Canada Post's write-up on this stamp states "The Canadian natives who sold the land upon which Toronto would be built would never have imagined all that would occur afterward. 200 years later, Toronto is a thriving metropolis and proud site of the world's tallest (at the time) freestanding structure, the CN Tower."

And beside that freestanding structure is SkyDome, the proud home of the Toronto Blue Jays.

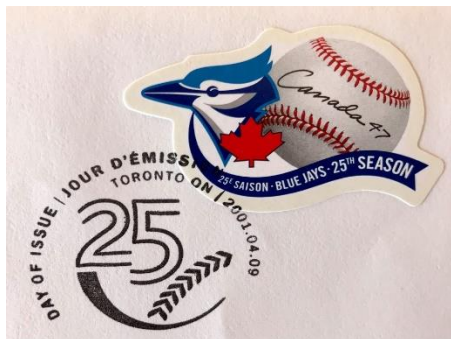
Every year some 3,000,000 Canadians do volunteer work. In addition to those who are helped, the volunteers themselves also benefit, as does the community. Many jobs would not get done and many people would not be given a helping hand without volunteers. Canada applauded these great people during National Volunteer Week in May 1987. The Volunteers stamp was designed by Toronto illustrator Will Davies. The design features people from all walks of life and suggests the multiplicity of activities and organizations which involve the participation of



volunteers. Baseball coaches and league organizers and moms and dads who all help out kids baseball leagues all over the country are included through the picture of the man with the bat walking with the girl holding a ball and glove.

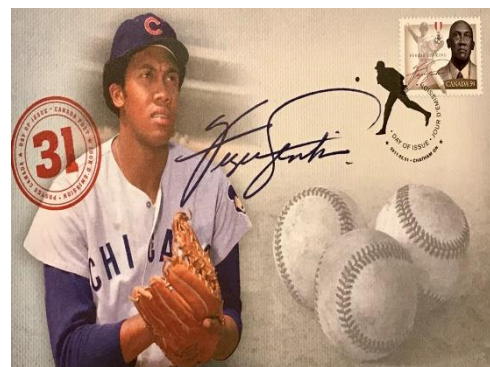
So as mentioned near the start of this presentation, these are three examples of stamps that are not meant to be about baseball, but there is something related to baseball in the stamp picture; hence the stamp's inclusion in the baseball topical category.

To commemorate 25 years of Toronto Blue Jays baseball and outstanding team spirit, Canada Post commissioned renowned designer Paul Haslip to produce



a stamp that is a celebration of the team's accomplishments. Paul's design combines several elements of baseball tradition, including a photographic rendition of a ball, as well as the Blue Jays' 25th anniversary logo. "This led to the idea of having the 'Canada 47' in the same style as a player's signature," says Paul. Issued in 2001, this is a great looking stamp, and it's always fun seeing a stamp that is not the traditional rectangular shape.

Everyone knows Fergie Jenkins and his story, and Canada honoured him as part of Canada Post's Black History Month issue. Ferguson "Fergie" Jenkins was born on December 13, 1942, in Chatham, Ontario. He excelled at sports in school and played bantam baseball as a teenager, eventually signing with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1962. Fergie would go on to pitch for the Phillies, Cubs, Rangers and Red Sox between 1965 and 1977. And just to keep in shape in the off season, he played for the Harlem Globetrotters.



He was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987 and is the only Canadian honoured so far in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown (1991). Stamp designer Lara Minja notes "The determination, strength, integrity and pride of Fergie Jenkins are the attributes I aspired to bring



to this stamp. The design balances a more recent depiction with an image from the past. A photograph of a more mature Jenkins is overlapped by an image of him on the pitcher's mound. The stamp incorporates the Order of Canada icon, as well as the name and signature of Jenkins to personalize the design."

The final Canadian baseball stamp is called Baseball In Canada, 1838 – 1988. As has been presented and discussed in previous conference presentations, the first recorded baseball game was played in Beachville, Ontario, on June 4, 1838. The Beachville game was played a year earlier than a more publicized American game purportedly held at Cooperstown, New York. Toronto designer Les Holloway's design shows a baseball, falling into a player's glove, superimposed onto the familiar baseball diamond-shaped playing field. The vivid colours of the stamp and the typography resembling the insignias on players' jerseys combine to bring the game alive.



From the Canada Post news release on this stamp: Baseball is believed to have evolved from the English game of rounders. The first recorded baseball game was played in Beachville (in Upper Canada, now Ontario), on 4 June 1838 as part of the celebration marking the government's 1837 victory in the Upper Canada Rebellion. Minor League baseball has flourished in Canada since the 1850s. The Hamilton Young Canadians, formed in April 1854, was Canada's earliest known team of long duration. From the minors, over one hundred and fifty Canadians have gone on to the majors. The first Canadian major league team, the Montreal Expos, played its first National League game on 8 April 1969. The Toronto Blue Jays followed suit, playing their first American League game on 7 April 1977.

The stamp was introduced on September 14, 1988 at Olympic Stadium in Montreal. Canada Post Chairman Sylvain Cloutier said "Over the past century and a half, baseball has become part of the Canadian heritage, part of the way we live and the way we play". Cloutier presented a special replica of the stamp to Expos

Manager Buck Rogers and to Allan Lewis of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, which was then located at Ontario Place in Toronto. On-field presentations were also made at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto by Canada Post President Donald Lander to Jays Manager Jimmy Williams and Randy Echlin of the Hall of Fame.

So back to the words “played a year earlier”. The United States issued a stamp called “Centennial of Baseball” in 1939. The stamp features a painting of kids playing a sandlot game of baseball. This stamp, the 3-cent Baseball Centennial Issue, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the creation of baseball by Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, New York. We all know there’s lots of research to prove that Abner Doubleday did not invent baseball, but I will state here, probably for the first time ever, that the real proof lies in the issuance of these two stamps (the Canadian 150 years stamp and the U.S. centennial stamp), and a scene at the end of the movie “Miracle on 34th Street”.

If you recall, a man whose name is Kris Kringle is up for trial claiming to be Santa Claus, when suddenly the U.S. Postal Service decides to deliver bags and

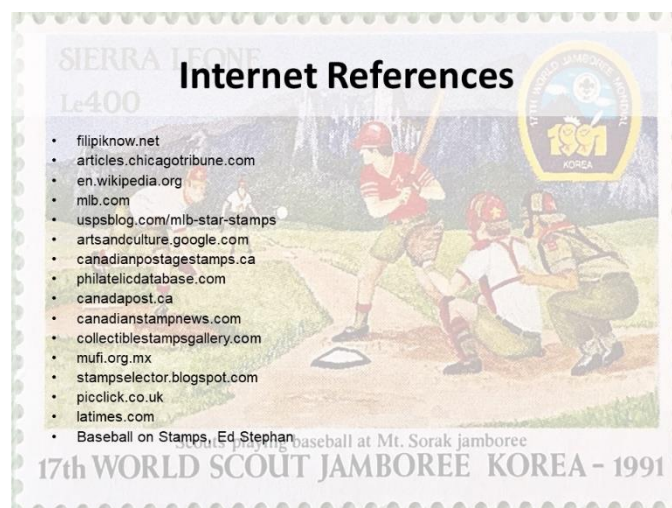


bags of letters, all addressed to Santa, to the defendant right there in the courtroom. The defendant’s lawyer says to the judge: “The Post Office has delivered these letters to Santa Claus. Therefore the Post Office Department, a branch of the Federal Government, recognizes this man Kris Kringle to be the one and only Santa Claus.” The judge sees an easy out of a very delicate situation and



declares that: “Since the United States Government declares this man to be Santa Claus, this court will not dispute it. Case dismissed.”

So since BOTH Canadian and U.S. Postal Services, which are BOTH branches of their respective federal governments, have stated when baseball started in their respective countries, I think it’s “case dismissed” that it all happened here first.



David Schulz
November 2018

