

## Canada

UPU member since 1 July 1878.

The stamps then current, namely the Large Head ½¢ and 15¢ slaty blue, the Small Head 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢, 6¢ and 10¢, and the 2¢ and 5¢ Registration stamps, were distributed in October 1879. These and all later issues, with the exception of the 8 stamps listed, were in mint condition.

Presumably because of their high face value it was decided to protect the top values of the 1897 Jubilee set with a 'SPECIMEN' handstamp before they were sent to the International Bureau for distribution.

No satisfactory explanation has been found for the use of two different handstamps. It may be that it was originally decided only to protect the 50¢ to \$5 and only somewhat later the 20¢. All official collections that have been examined contain the ½¢ to 15¢ in mint condition and the 20¢ to \$5 with a 'SPECIMEN' handstamp.

Note that most of the lower values including the 20¢ are known with type [1]; these are all rare. The 50¢ is known with type [2]; it is scarce.



1897 Jubilee — 20¢ 'SPECIMEN' type [2], other values type [1]  
ex Tunisia collection



1906 — 'SPECIMEN' type [1]