

## Introduction to The Dr. Paul M. Cere Collection

The Air Post Semi-Official stamps of Canada, 1918-1934, are among the most popular and elusive stamps issued by any entity in the early pioneer aviation years. This collecting area provides ample intellectual challenges, with the vast array of issues produced by private companies and air clubs to frank mail carried on the early private flights throughout Canada.

It is these challenges that attracted Dr. Paul M. Cere to assemble one of the most important collections – of both stamps and their usage on cover – ever formed. Dr. Cere concentrated his efforts on buying scarce and rare items, including listed and unlisted varieties. He would not hesitate to acquire more than one example of a rarity. For example, he has both of the only two recorded examples of Scott CL14b – one of the iconic rarities of Canadian Semi-Official Air Posts.

Many of the most elusive stamps and covers in Dr. Cere's collection were acquired from such famous collections as Mac Goldberg, Ernie Wall and Robert Cunliffe. He was particularly fond of the stamps of the Patricia Airways and Exploration Company, with these overprinted stamps providing numerous combinations of errors and varieties. Many of these stamps have not been on the open auction market in years.

This unreserved auction sale represents a remarkable opportunity for established Canadian Semi-Official Air Post collectors to acquire stamps and covers that have long eluded them. The sale also represents a great opportunity for a collector seeking a new collecting challenge.

We are pleased Dr. Cere decided to honor Siegel International with the sale of his impressive collection. In return, we have honored Dr. Cere's great collecting achievement by producing this single-owner auction catalogue, and have provided as much pertinent detail in our descriptions as possible for future reference by specialist collectors.

We would also like to express our gratitude for the help and guidance provided by Ray Simrak – the preeminent collector and expert in the field of Canadian aerophilately.

— CHARLES F. SHREVE

The main catalogue identifications used throughout this sale are those found in the *Scott 2017 Classic Specialized Catalogue*, and the corresponding catalogue values (in U.S. dollars) are found in the right-hand column of our descriptions. However, whenever possible, we have also identified each item by the *2017 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* and have shown their catalogue values (in Canadian dollars). While both catalogue listings normally mirror one another, sometimes an item may only be listed in Scott, or vice versa. In those instances we have listed the identification and pricing by the sole catalogue that lists and prices that particular stamp or variety.