

THE SPORTS ARENA

by Mark Maestroni

Vancouver Olympics Major Error

Courtesy of Glenn Estus, we have a news item dating back to February 2011 revealing the existence of a major error on the overprinted Canada Post souvenir sheets from the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

To recap, Canada Post originally issued three different souvenir sheets. A total of 50,000 sets were set aside and subsequently overprinted with the text "Vancouver 2010" in gold, silver, or bronze foil. Of these overprinted sheets, 16,000 sets were packaged for sale as expensive stamp-and-coin sets. However, after complaints by collectors, the remaining 34,000 sets of the overprinted sheets were sold in stamp-only packages at face value.

The error involves the souvenir sheet of five sports stamps. Instead of a silver foil overprint, it appears that the sheet was instead overprinted using gold foil. To date, only a single example has been reported. The owner of the error has confirmed that the souvenir sheet was part of the stamp-and-coin packaged set.

For the original report on this find, please go to: http://brcstamps.com/pr24_2010_olympics_ovpt_error.htm.



At bottom is the error souvenir sheet with gold foil overprint. A normal silver foil overprinted sheet is shown above it.



More Vancouver Olympic News

Canada Post's recent issue of four "Difference Makers" stamps on May 22 included an important participant in the February 12 Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

Rick Hansen, then a 53-year-old Paralympian, and multi-gold medalist in the Paralympic marathon, was the first Canadian torch bearer to enter the BC Place Stadium. With the torch securely fastened to a special arm attached to his wheelchair, Rick wheeled into the stadium and passed the Olympic flame to Catrina Lemay Doan, one of Canada's most successful speed skaters.

Hansen, who also carried the torch on February 9 in the town of Richmond, is best known for his lifelong commitment to finding treatments for spinal cord injuries. He was 15 years old when he was thrown from the back of a pickup truck sustaining permanent injuries that paralyzed him from the waist down. Undaunted by his injury, Rick went on to become the first person with a physical disability to receive a degree in Physical Education from the University of British Columbia.

Today, the Rick Hansen Foundation has raised over \$200 million in support of spinal cord injury-related programs.

The self-adhesive "permanent" Rick Hansen stamp was issued in a 10-stamp booklet format. The current value of each stamp is 61¢. The stamp is also included in a four-stamp souvenir sheet along with the other three honorees: actor and Parkinson's activist Michael J. Fox, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour.