

Yves Baril and His Christopher Columbus Engravings

EARLY CAREER

In 1953, stopped working as a figure drawer for the Radio-Canada society and an apprenticeship at Canadian Bank Note Company. Baril was picked due the recommendation of his former teacher at the Ecole des Art Graphiques, Albert Dumouchel. At the CBNC, he was under tutelage of the master engraver Silas Robert Allen. As part of his apprenticeship, Baril spent 1954 to 1957 with the American Bank Note Company in New York. While there, he entered a competition in 1955, engraving the design for the Saskatchewan stamp. His teacher Allen had also submitted his engraving for the stamp. Baril had engraved the design, “just for fun”, but was chosen to engrave the eventual stamp. While it did show Baril’s masterly talent, the event did sour the relations slightly between master and pupil.

In 1957, Allen suffered a fatal car accident, leaving Baril as the only engraver at CBNC. He had further training at the ABNC, from the engravers William Ford, Warrell Hauck and Leo Kauffmann. Baril also trained at Bradbury, Wilkinson in England from Ron Beckers and Alan Dow.

BANKNOTE ENGRAVINGS


Baril engraved stamps for Canada, United States and for the United Nations. According to the *International Engraver's Line*, Yves Baril engraved 48 banknotes for 13 countries. Baril is probably best known for “fixing” the 1954 series of Canadian banknotes portraying Queen Elizabeth II. The original series with a Queen Elizabeth II portrait was engraved by George Gundersen. The note had a devil's face hidden in the Queen's hair to some viewers. A new series was issued later that year with the hairdo re-engraved by Yves Baril to remove the alleged portrait.

While strictly forbidden, Baril added his initials unnoticed in the engravings for four banknotes. After the retirement of those notes and Baril, he admitted to the initials to Gene Hessler, who published the details in the journal of the International bank Note Society. The initials can be found on banknotes produced in the late 1980s to early 1990s - P90, P97, P98 and P100; \$50, \$20, \$50, and \$1,000 respectively.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ENGRAVINGS

In 1992, when the world commemorated Christopher Columbus discovering America in 1492, Baril's multiple engravings of Christopher Columbus were utilized in a number of banknotes and philatelic items. His portraits appeared on banknotes from the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. A third engraved portrait, this time with Columbus facing left, appeared on a commemorative card produced for the World Columbian Stamp Expo '92. It is not known why Yves Basil produced several nearly identical vignettes, all based on a painting entitled *Portrait of*

Columbus that is displayed in the Museum of Sea and Navigation in Genoa, Italy. The artist is unknown, but it is attributed to Ridolfo Ghirlandaio (February 14, 1483 - June 6, 1561), also known as Ridolfo di Domenico Bigordi. Ghirlandaio was an Italian Renaissance painter. Ghirlandaio never lived in Spain and probably never actually met Columbus. While the Souvenir Card states one portrait may exist, no known portraits of Columbus drawn or painted from life exist. Accounts of Columbus indicate that he was “was a vigorous man, of tall stature, with blond beard and hair, clear complexion and blue eyes. His hair had turned white by the time he was 30.




**WORLD COLUMBIAN
STAMP EXPO '92**

WORLD COLUMBIAN STAMP EXPO '92

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THERE IS RECENT EVIDENCE THAT ONLY ONE PORTRAIT MAY EXIST OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FROM LIFE. MORE THAN EIGHTY KNOWN PORTRAITS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WERE PRODUCED AFTER HIS DEATH.



ENGRAVED BY CANADIAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THIS VIGNETTE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WAS ENGRAVED BY YVES BARIL, MASTER ENGRAVER AT CANADIAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, LIMITED FOR STAMP VENTURERS INC.

THE PORTRAIT USED FOR THIS ENGRAVING IS BY THE GENOESE ARTIST RIDOLFO GHIRLANDAIO (1483 - 1561) FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NAVAL MUSEUM DE PEGLI IN GENOA, ITALY. IT HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE CITY OF GENOA AS THE OFFICIAL COLUMBUS PORTRAIT.

SO-98, unknown number printed or sold



P50 \$1 Bahamas front introduced in 1992



P140 500 Pesos Oro Dominican Republic front introduced in 1992

OTHER SOUVENIR CARDS

Some Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society cards (not cataloged by the SCCS) show some of Baril's engraving skills. The first should be of great interest to Greg!

THE CHRISTMAS SEAL AND CHARITY STAMP SOCIETY
American Philatelic Society Affiliate #101



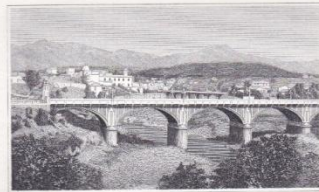
Intaglio eagle by master engraver Yves Baril, after 1861 \$50 interest bearing bank note
APS StampShow 2015, Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 20-23

The center vignette used on 5 Peso note of Mexico, starting in 1969.

THE CHRISTMAS SEAL AND CHARITY STAMP SOCIETY
American Philatelic Society Affiliate #101



Perforations 12, 12 x 12 ½, 12 ½ x 12, 12 ½



Imperforate Pair



Intaglio "Queretaro Bridge" by master engraver Yves Baril, essay for 1969 5 peso Mexican Bank Note
World Stamp Show NY 2016, May 28 – June 4, Javits Center

"Cargo on the Levee" vignette.

THE CHRISTMAS SEAL AND CHARITY STAMP SOCIETY
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Perforations 12, 12 x 12 ½, 12 ½ x 12, 12 ½



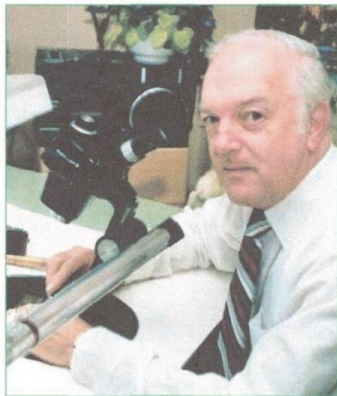
Imperforate Pair



Intaglio "Cargo on the Levee" by master engraver Yves Baril, of The Canadian Bank Note Company
World Stamp Show NY 2016, May 28 – June 4, Javits Center

RETIREMENT AFTER 43 YEARS WITH CBNC

In 2022, the Académie québécoise d'études philatéliques (Quebec Academy of Philatelic Studies), awarded the Médaille de l'Académie (Academy Medal) to Yves Baril, The AQEP occasionally presents its Médaille de l'Académie to mark an exceptional achievement or for a remarkable involvement in philately. AQEP President Cimon Morin quote, "Yves Baril is recognized for his immense contribution to Canadian philately through the creation of Canadian postage stamps".



YVES BARIL
Graveur de timbres-poste
Médaille de l'AQEP
GATINEAU 2022.07.30

Une des oeuvres d'Yves Baril



Much information was derived from *International Engraver's Line*, Gene Hessler, and the Stamp Engravers blogsite at:

<https://stampengravers.blogspot.com/>