The Canadian GBT Postage Stamp

David E. Hogg September 4, 2023

Shortly after the GBT became fully operational, my sister Sally, living at the time in Thornhill, Ontario, told me that the Canada Postal Service offered a program in which they would print a sheet of Canadian postal stamps using a design submitted by an individual. The design had to be approved, and the cost would be that of a standard sheet of stamps plus a modest production fee. I thought that it would be neat to have an image of the GBT on a stamp, even if not US postage, so I submitted a request including two images of the GBT and the payment. In due course I received an envelope containing a sheet of GBT stamps and the two images which I had sent.

These are legitimate stamps and can be used on normal mail. To demonstrate this, I mailed letters to several people associated with the GBT Project (such as Paul Vanden Bout and Bob Hall). I mailed them from a little post office near my sister's house where the postmistress postmarked the envelopes by hand so the cancellation marks would not spoil the image. Because it was international mail I needed to use two stamps on each letter.

When my letter arrived, my wife Carol had the inspired idea to take the envelope and the two images to a studio and have them framed. The framed picture is now kept at the Green Bank Observatory.