



The latest Sea Rescue stamp from Sweden..



Captain George Vancouver and his Fleet—by Lana Rodlie

Canada Post issued an international rate stamp on June 22 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Captain George Vancouver and his achievements during two decades of exploration.

Captain George Vancouver, the first European to explore the inner waters of Burrard Inlet, was born in King's Lynn, Norfolk, on June 22, 1757. He was of Dutch ancestry, descended from the titled Van Coeverden family, whose castle at Coeverden was long an important fortress on the eastern frontier with Germany. Vancouver's great-grandfather married an Englishwoman; his grandfather seems to have spent most of his later years in England. George's father, John Jasper Vancouver, was assistant collector functioning official, as the position Bridget Berners, came from an old Grenville, of **REVENGE** fame,

King's Lynn was then a busy contacts in maritime and official preparing to sail on the second of his doubt it was through those contacts George to Cook's attention and have was a much sought after position a rigorous training in seamanship, and also under William Wales, a the **RESOLUTION**. A decade later, the British Columbia coast after to Wales' "kind instruction" that he has enabled me to traverse and

The chief purpose of Cook's a legendary antarctic continent exploration of the Antarctic region, Pacific, in July 1775 the But almost immediately Cook began would take him on a search for the once again sailed in the appointed to her smaller companion,



of customs at King's Lynn (actually the of collector was a sinecure). His mother, county family that numbered Sir Richard among their ancestors.

seaport, and John Jasper had many circles. In 1772, When Cook was three great voyages to the Pacific, no that Jasper was able to bring young him appointed to the **RESOLUTION**. It and meant that Vancouver would receive navigation and surveying under Cook noted astronomer, who was serving on when Vancouver was naming a point on Wales, he noted in his journal that it was indebted "for that information which delineate these lonely regions."

second voyage was to ascertain whether actually existed. After summer and winter exploration of the South **RESOLUTION** was back in England. planning for a third voyage, one that long sought for Northwest Passage. He **RESOLUTION**, with Vancouver the **DISCOVERY**.

The **RESOLUTION** and **DISCOVERY** returned to England in October 1780, and Vancouver applied for and passed examinations that qualified him for promotion to lieutenant. His first appointment was to the sloop *Martin*. Early in 1782 she was sent to the West Indies Station, where Vancouver was to spend the better part of five years. His last and most important spell of duty there was in the **EUROPA**, flagship of Commodore Sir Alan (later Admiral Lord) Gardner, in whom he found a friend and influential patron. It was also in the **EUROPA** that Vancouver met four young men who were to figure in his own survey of the Northwest Coast—Peter Puget, Joseph Baker, Joseph Whidbey and Zachary Mudge. Vancouver himself rose to be 1st Lieutenant (second-in-command) of the **EUROPA**, and his friendship with Gardner became doubly important when, not long after the ship returned to England, Gardner became a member of the board of admiralty.

(Captain George Vancouver, continued on page 2)