

## *A.E.A. Silver Dart*

"A.E.A. Silver Dart" depicts the first controlled powered flight of an aircraft in Canada. Shown here soaring above the ice of Bras d'Or Lake in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia on February 23, 1909, Silver Dart was the culmination of efforts by the Aerial Experiment Association. Formed by inventor Dr. Alexander Graham Bell and funded by his wife Mabel Bell, the A.E.A. included James A.D. McCurdy, Frederick W. Baldwin, Thomas E. Selfridge and Glenn Curtiss.

With McCurdy at the controls, Silver Dart flew a distance of about 800 metres at an estimated speed of 64 km/h and at heights of up to 10 metres. After its milestone first flight, the Silver Dart made more flights, some of which were over 12.8 kms in length and involved circular routes, with flying times up to 20 minutes.\*

Artist R.W. Bradford, C.M., took care to depict Dr. Bell as the bearded figure standing in the sleigh, accompanied by his wife Mabel Bell, as reported in contemporary accounts.

\*[www.canadiancentennialofflight.ca](http://www.canadiancentennialofflight.ca)

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Original Art by Robert Bradford, C.M.

Inside greeting:

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