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Revue de la SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

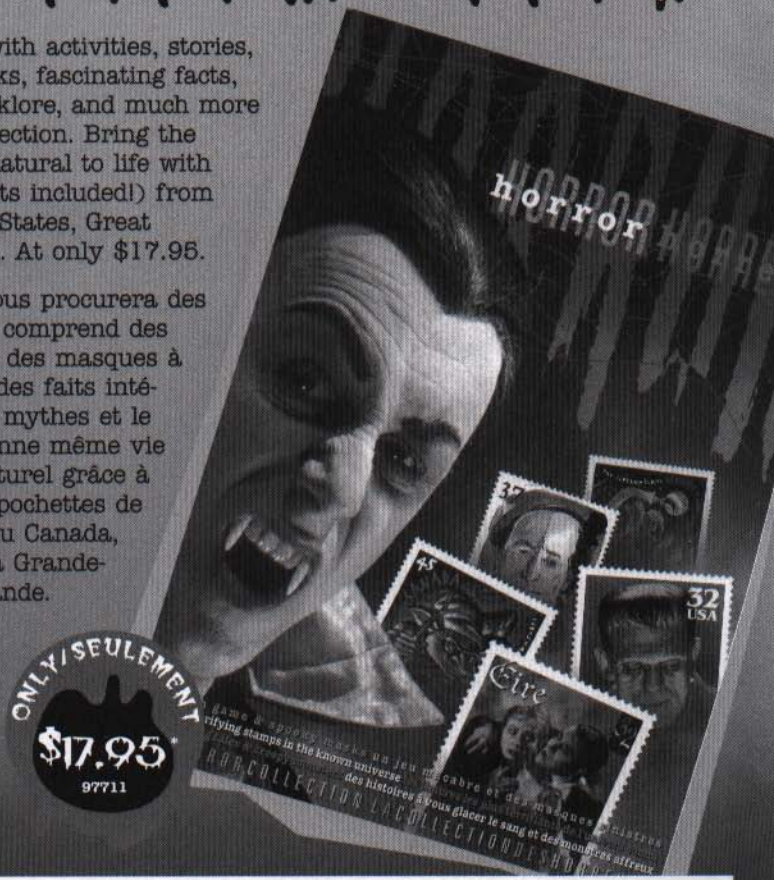


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EDITOR
Steve Thorning
Box 121
Elora, ON
N0B 1S0
(519) 846-9954

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
Box 929, Station Q
Toronto, ON M4T 2P1
(416) 979-7474
fax (416) 979-1144

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The Cover: Canada marked Newfoundland's entry into the Confederation in 1949 with this stamp, portraying John Cabot's ship, the Matthew. *Frank Alusio takes a look at the elusive Mr. Cabot and his achievements beginning on page 327.*

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Conventions and Exhibitions ..... Keith Spencer, 5005 Whitemud Rd., Edmonton, AB T6H 5L2

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Address: P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1

Editor: Steve Thorning *Advertising:* Andrew D. Parr, (416) 979-7474

From the Editor's Desk by Steve Thorning

NEW ISSUE POLICIES

Contemporary stamp issuing policies have been a frequent subject of this column in recent issues. I came across a most interesting perspective on this matter in the June issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly,* which printed the text of a lecture given by Paul Vernon, Chief Executive of the Guernsey Post Office, to the Commonwealth Postal Administrations Conference.

As head of a small postal administration with a heavy reliance on philatelic sales, the future of philately is of great concern to Mr. Vernon. It is his observation that philately has been in a general downward spiral for about 15 years. He traces this development to the speculative and investment bubble of the 1970s, and to increasing competition for leisure time in a culture that sees philately as an unfashionably passive pastime.

Mr. Vernon notes that co-operative marketing and managed thematic programs are now common, and are likely to be increasingly so. The Stamp Month thematics, which now involve similar issues from Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Ireland, illustrate the point. While these programs increase the availability of stamps to novices, Mr. Vernon sees a danger here in over-promotion, and a uniformity of issues which will make collecting less interesting.

Though he does not say so directly, Mr. Vernon implies that his philatelic sales, and those of other administrations, are on a downward trend. He suggests that some smaller administrations may abandon philatelic sales altogether in the future. To avoid this, he sees the future appearance of philatelic marketing groups to increase the effectiveness of marketing campaigns. This will lead to a further reduction in the number of dealers, particularly those specializing in new issues, and a growth in direct sales and via the Internet.

One of Mr. Vernon's comments is particularly noteworthy. He foresees that postal administrations will seek to target their marketing efforts more selectively. However, he does not identify where the growth areas of the hobby are.

Here at home, Canada Post's Stamp Month programs are, undeniably, geared exclusively to children. Promotion of youth philately has been a priority of organized philately and organizations such as the RPSC for many years. The results have hardly been overwhelming. Stamp collecting among children was far more popular years ago, before all this promotional existed.

I was not at all surprised to see that our sister organization, the American Philatelic Society, has been reconsidering its promotional efforts, recognizing that new collectors can be found among those in their 50s, and who have never collected before. These are sophisticated people. It will be difficult to market frivolous new issues to them.

Standards and ethical standards for new issues have declined dramatically in recent years. Many postal administrations are paying royalties to use animated figures and fictional characters. Canada Post now portrays living people (the recent hockey stamps) and cooperates in commercial promotions (Canadian Tire).

It has become impossible to be a general collector. Buying one of each new issue costs well in excess of $10,000. Collect them used? Forget it. I defy anyone to put together a legitimately used worldwide collection of 1997 issues. Many administrations now put out more than 100 stamps per year. A growing list exceeds 50, and there are few with under 30.

Inevitably, postal administrations will need to take a long-term view of their marketing strategies, and build up a solid core of loyal customers. Before that happens, shrill promotions and silly issues will continue to pollute the hobby.

THE 1996 INDEX

Included as an insert to this issue is the index for the 1996 issues of *The Canadian Philatelist.* As in past years, we are much indebted to Mr. Brian Russell of Russell, Ontario for his time and effort in preparing this index, which is a great help in locating older items published in the journal. The index usually is published in the spring. It was displaced this year by material for Royal 97.

WANT A CHANGE?

TAKE UP CANADIAN REVENUES!

Here is the situation. Just about every dealer has a box of these that can be picked up reasonably. All auctions have collections and accumulations, and tremendous bargains are fairly normal. Even when prices look high, you usually wind up with stamps that exist not in the hundreds or thousands but in 10 to 50!

Best of all, consider this: NOT ONE CANADIAN REVENUE STAMP WAS EVER ISSUED WITH COLLECTORS IN MIND!

As I've pointed out before, nearly all come engraved (mostly the work of the American Bank Note Company) and if you think the 50¢ Canada Bluenose or the $1 USA Trans-Mississippi is the height of beautiful engraving, wait until you see any of the Canada Supreme Court Law Stamps.

Here is an excellent start. I recently purchased 100 packets of 200 different from a dealer who spent several years assembling the lot. Now a packet of 100 different sells at $25 or more every time. This 200 lot is well worth $100.

To it I'm adding more revenues, including complete sets all well worth $300 alone.

Get The Combined Lot For Just US $200.00

The best and only Canadian Revenue Catalogue on the market is by E.S.J. van Dam. I'll have the latest edition just coming out at $20. It has the easy-to-use spiral binding.

I have two addresses. If you live in the USA, ALWAYS use the Pembina address. For Canadian collectors, there has been a change in my Canadian address. The old Station B (no, it did not stand for Bileski) which I've used for 57 years is no more. The old Station B post office, built before 1900, has been retired. All else remains the same, except the replacement for Station B. This is now RPO Redwood Centre.

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Letters to the Editor

SCOTT CATALOGUES

Sir,

I have been a stamp collector for about sixty years. I started as a young child and have continued over the years.

As a youngster, I could not afford to purchase a new catalogue. For many years I was either given an out-of-date Scott catalogue or purchased an older one at a great discount.

For the past twenty years I have specialized in the stamps of the United States and the British Commonwealth. As such I have purchased the Scott volumes 1A and 1B every second year. I have donated my older volumes to a local children's stamp class.

My purpose in writing is to explain my shock to hear that Scott has now combined all the world in five or six volumes. I feel that I, and many other philatelists, simply cannot afford to buy that many volumes. This is especially so when perhaps three quarters of the contents are of no interest to me.

Therefore, I will suffer by not having these catalogues for reference, Scott will suffer because there will be no sale, Scott distributors will suffer, and the children will suffer.

Scott's decision, in my opinion, is not good for the publisher or the hobby. I simply cannot see the benefit to anyone.

I encourage Scott to change its decision and recognize that it was a mistake.

Ian G. Stewart
Toronto

SUPPORT FOR REICHE

Sir,

I was fascinated by the portion of Hans Reiche's "Postmarked Ottawa" column entitled "New Blood for Philately." Of course, Mr. Reiche is absolutely right. We are trying to create instant gold medalists instead of showing the public what philately is all about.

In 1972 I published a monograph entitled *Come, Blow Your Horn* in English and *Claironnez* in French. This paper dealt with the use of stamps, in an unorthodox manner, to teach geography and economic development. There were two printings with a total of 400 copies in English and 250 in French. The program, albeit modified, was picked up by several other countries and it is still used in England and Switzerland.

People did criticize me for having mutilated some stamps in preparing a map, but in general, the reaction and reception were positive. I hope that it did bring a few people into philately and was of some use to those who employed the concept.

Michael Madesker
Downsview, Ont.

(Editor's note: Because Mr. Madesker's monograph is now 25 years old, and difficult to find, we propose reprinting it in a future issue of this journal.)

GOVERNMENT VS PHILATELY

Sir,

I have just received a small letter from Switzerland containing a few recently issued postage stamps for my stamp collection. The value of all the stamps was 35.20 Swiss francs, or about $34 in Canadian currency.

One of our obviously underemployed minions in Canada Customs has decided to charge GST in the amount of $2.32, on top of which Canada Post charges me a $5.00 fee to collect the tax.

While I cannot question the law which states that the tax is payable, I must question the value received by the Government of Canada, considering the time spent and the use of supplies in this case.

As taxpayers we all are constantly experiencing the downsizing of government and bankruptcies in the private sector. Perhaps the time has come when we ought to consider the effectiveness of collecting such small sums. It almost borders on harassment, when the mail carrier was unable to make change upon delivery, and I had to make a special trip to the post office for the privilege of paying my dues and receiving my letter.

I am asking my M.P. to speak to the people

responsible for this totally inane system, and try to make it a little less bureaucratic, even if, god forbid, we end up with a need for fewer bureaucrats in the end. No one in the private sector would think of spending a dollar to collect a cent. Should our federal system not follow the same principle?

Herbert Kucera
North York, Ont.

ANOTHER FAN FOR C.F. BLACK

Sir,

Knowing that my family came from P.E.I., a friend loaned me C.F. Black's article on Prince Edward Island. What a delight to see what can be done philatelically with a little digging for information. I learned a great deal from Mr. Black. I have not been to P.E.I. for many decades, when I was a youngster visiting my grandparents.

I would consider joining the RPSC if you published more articles of this type.

Bruce Walters
Vancouver

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Philatelic News in Brief...

COWTOWN HOSTS ROYAL 97 ROYALE

The 69th annual convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada was held in Calgary from September 19 to 21. It was the first Royal in Calgary since 1980. The occasion was marked by the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Calgary Philatelic Society, which held its first meeting in 1922. On display were 250 frames, including the Seaway invert, frame after frame of pence issues, and a wide variety of topicals and postal history.

The convention was opened on Friday morning in front of a capacity crowd. Alberta Lieutenant Governor Bud Olson declared the show officially open. Canada Post representatives unveiled the 90¢ Christmas stamp design, which will depict a stained-glass window from St. Stephen Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Church in Calgary. That explained the large crowd on hand, as much of the audience was the non-philatelic congregation come out to see their priest accept a presentation from Canada Post. In offering his thanks to Canada Post, Father Randy Yackimec raised a laugh from the spectators when he mentioned that the church has many more stained-glass windows, a subtle hint for future stamp issues.

RPSC President Bill Robinson accepted a white cowboy hat from Calgary Alderman Roy Clark, and took the Cowtown Oath, swearing to be hospitable and a rootin'-tootin' Calgarian, concluding with the obligatory "YAHOO!" The white hat ceremony is used by the city to honour distinguished guests. Prince Philip has four of them because of his frequent trips, although I believe the "YAHOO!" part of the oath was waived to protect royal dignity.

There were 27 dealers in the bourse. The death of Princess Diana caused a minor run on stamps depicting her, so the dealers did a good business in Royal wallpaper. As always, the more

solid areas of philately prevailed in the bourse. Postal history, topicals, and country stamps were the bread and butter.

There were four commemorative cancels for the show, three from Canada Post and one from the Calgary Philatelic Society for its 75th anniversary. Canada Post also issued a limited-edition prestamped envelope honouring Dr. Edward George Mason, who founded the Calgary Philatelic Society and was its first president.

Friday evening the delegates were treated to a visit to the Elkana Ranch, a dude ranch just west of Calgary in the Rocky Mountain foothills. Two bus loads made the trip for an evening of western hospitality.

Throughout the show there was a good turnout of juniors for the beginners' seminars and the 3¢ table (actually two tables heaped high with mission mixture at 3¢ per stamp). The publicity for Royal 97 was excellent. As well as lead-ups in the two daily newspapers and reports in the papers on each day of the convention, at least two television stations were present.

— Dale Speirs

LAKESHORE CLUB A WINNER

A tip of the editor's visor goes to the Lakeshore Stamp Club of Montreal. The club's show program for LAKESHORE 96 earned a vermeil award in the American Philatelic Society's competition for show programs. Hard working member (and RPSC Director) Francois Brisse was the editor of the program.

PHILATELIC MUSIC CIRCLE

The Robert Stoltz Trophy is awarded annually by the Philatelic Music Circle to the designer of the most attractive music stamp issued during the year. The latest winner is Martin Bailey of Auckland, New Zealand for his designs for a pair of stamps, released 10 July 1996, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Second place issued work on a pair of stamps released by Israel in April 1996, depicting Felix Mendelsohn and Gustav Mahler, and designed by Naomi and Meir Eschel. Third place went to an Austrian stamp honouring Anton Bruckner.

The Philatelic Music Circle is an international organization. The Canadian contact is Alena Pascual, Suite 0116, Box 27, 65 Front St. W., Toronto, ON M5J 1E6.

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

The United States Postal Service is more than pleased with the sale of the recent Bugs Bunny stamp. The initial printing of 265,000,000 sold out so quickly that authorities ordered an extra 100,000,000. Old Bugs is more popular than Elvis. No doubt many purchasers believed they were acquiring stamps that will eventually become rare collectors' items.

The USPS seems to be trying to outdo itself each year with sales figures for highly promoted stamps, drawing on popular culture rather than the Great Republic's achievements, history, heroes. What will it be next year—soap opera personalities? Gangsters? We can hardly wait.

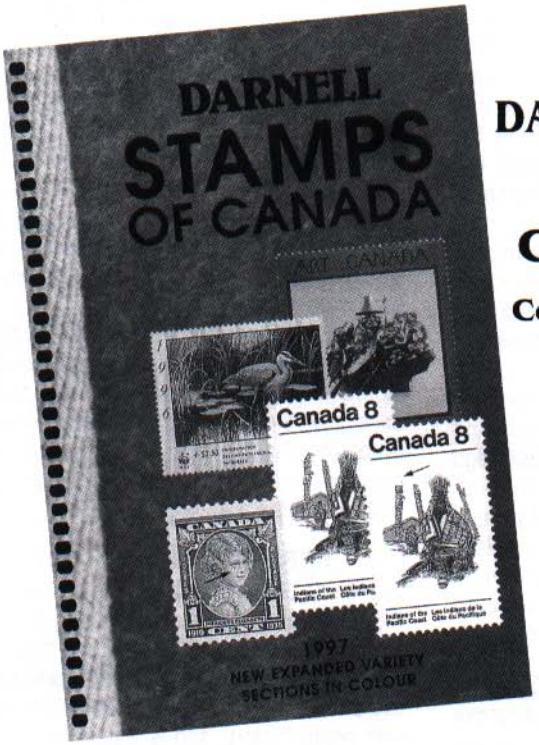
ROBSON LOWE, 1905 - 1997

Worldwide philatelic circles were saddened by the death of Robson Lowe on August 18. A dealer since the age of 15, Mr. Lowe began his business with a large stock of Irish provisional overprints. In the 1920s he became obsessed with postal history, and is widely believed to have been the originator of that term.

In 1932 Mr. Lowe published *The Regent Catalogue of British Empire Postage Stamps.* This ultimately evolved into the six-volume *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps,* which is still widely consulted today. Mr. Lowe served as general manager of international shows in 1950 and 1960. He played a major role in establishing the annual British Philatelic Exhibitions. During the 1950s his stamp shop at 50 Pall Mall, London became a well-known hangout for collectors and postal historians.

As a collector, Mr. Lowe formed numerous collections, and particularly notable ones of Australian States and the Cape of Good Hope.

In 1980 he sold Robson Lowe Ltd. to Christie's, a firm with which he had long been associated. His influence on philately over the past seven decades, as a dealer, exhibitor, author, publisher, and promoter of philately was without equal.



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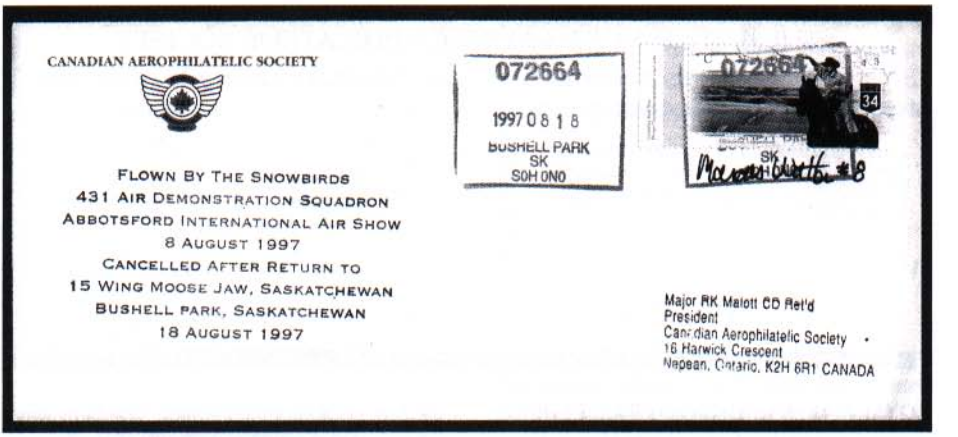
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SNOWBIRD COVERS

The cover illustrated above is one of a set of ten covers flown by the Snowbirds at the Abbottsford Air Show on August 8, and then flown back to 15 Wing at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and cancelled with a Bushell Park postmark. They are available from the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society. A set of nine, each autographed by one of the pilots, sells for $45.00, and a single cover signed by all nine pilots is $15.00. The set of ten with two copies of the Snowbird poster is $60.00. Orders should be sent to R.K. Malott, 16 Harwick Cres., Nepean, ON K2H 6R1.

ALUSIO AN INTERNATIONAL JUDGE

Following his duties as an apprentice at the PACIFIC 97 show in San Francisco, Frank Alusio of Toronto was named a fully accredited juror for thematic philately at international shows. We extend to Mr. Alusio good wishes with his future international judging assignments.

KRAEMER RECEIVES AWARD

James Kraemer, a Past President of the RPSC and former Director of the National Postal Museum, was recently honoured by being named by Canada Post as winner of the Golden Postmark for his Heritage Club involvement. Since retirement he not only is continuing his philatelic research and writing, but is active in community work, helping the handicapped and seniors. Among other things, he designed a program to help stroke victims recover using stamps as visual aids.

U.S. POLL RESULTS

A popularity poll conducted a few months ago by *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* shows that most serious American collectors prefer traditional subject matter to the popular culture themes being promoted by the U.S. Postal Service. Readers voted the "Endangered Species" series the most popular stamp issue. The Riverboats set came second, and the American Indian Dances set placed third.

Interestingly, the James Dean stamp, which appears to be the favourite of Postmaster General Marvin Runyon, was voted least necessary issue.

IBRA '99

The first international exhibition under FIP patronage in Germany in two decades will be held in the Bavarian city of Nuremberg from April 27 to May 4, 1999.

The Canadian commissioner, R.K. Malott, has already distributed some show material to those who applied for frames at CAPEX 96, and he encourages owners of new qualified exhibits (national level vermeil) to apply. Potential exhibitors should be aware that the IBRA frames will hold 12 pages, not 16 as is usually the case. This will be a popular show, and competition for frame allocation will likely be intense.

For further information on exhibiting at the show, or for other information on Nuremberg and IBRA '99, contact R.K. Malott, 16 Harwick Cres., Nepean, ON K2H 6R1; telephone/fax (613) 829-0280.

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BNAPS — *The Society for Canadian Philately*

ROYAL MAIL'S UPGRADED RAIL SERVICE

Unlike Canada Post, the Royal Mail in Great Britain still regards the rail system as a the core of its transportation network. The latest innovation is the Class 325 mail trains. These are four-car sets of electric powered cars with cab facilities at either end. They take power either from 25,000 volt overhead lines or 740-volt third rail. They can also be hauled by conventional diesel locomotives on unelectrified lines. They are capable of 100 miles per hour. Up to three sets of cars can be coupled together, for a 12-car mail train. The new equipment was developed for Royal Mail by ABB Rail Vehicles.

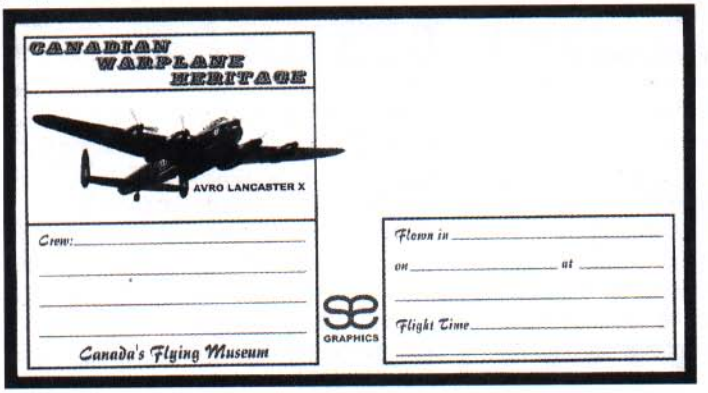
Each of the cars has a capacity of 180 wheeled mail containers, and the total weight limit is 45 tonnes per car.

The trains move in three cycles or waves each working day. The first wave, despatched in early afternoon, moves most of the second-class mail, but picks up some first class en route. The second wave, despatched after 8 pm, picks up first class mail, and connects with various corresponding trains. The final wave takes first class mail to its destinations for next morning delivery.

The new equipment, which employs a number of technical innovations, is running primarily on the West Coast, East Coast, Anglian, and South East (former Southern) main lines.

WARPLANE HERITAGE COVERS

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum is offering a set of six flown covers. They portray six of the planes in the collection, with a colour photograph, details of the flight, and crew signatures. The reverse has a line drawing of the plane, with particular details of the plane in an insert. The covers sell for $4.50 each plus $1 per order for postage. Proceeds go to restoration projects at the Museum. An unflown "proof" is illustrated below. For orders, or more information, write Major W. Randall, Lancaster Support Club, 9280 Airport Road, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0.



A LONG WAIT

At the recent stamp show in Hong Kong, more than 3,000 people camped out overnight to be certain of buying the last British stamp issues. It was too much for a 71-year-old collector. He was found dead in the lineup in the morning.

SEMINAR ON EXHIBITING

The RPSC is offering to its Chapter members a seminar on exhibiting philatelic material at local and other exhibitions.

This seminar, prepared by the Lakeshore Stamp Club of Dorval, Quebec, is an excellent presentation of the various elements involved in successful exhibiting—as opposed to merely collecting. The Lakeshore Club has been presenting this seminar for the past 15 years to more than 100 potential exhibitors. Three of these subsequently garnered the Grand Award at RPSC national exhibitions.

The seminar will take one day of your time, requires up to a half dozen presenters, and can accommodate up to 25 students. If your club is interested, please contact Ray Ireson at 86 Cartier, Roxboro, QC H8Y 1G8.

There is no charge for using this seminar, but we must ask you to report when and where it took place, how many presenters and students participated, your comments on the package, suggestions for improvement, and whether you think such instruction is appropriate for the improvement of your exhibits. Such feedback is essential to assess the success of the program.

This is a wonderful chance to improve the quality of your exhibits quickly and efficiently. Encourage your club executive to take advantage of this seminar. It will help your collection, help your club, and help your local show.

A CURE FOR MESSY CANCELS?

Canada Post has just taken a step forward in resolving the continuing problem of extra and unnecessarily heavy cancels on philatelic mail. During the week of September 30 to October 6 in Hamilton, a team of Canada Post test organizers (Steve Selig, David Lopeke and Andrew Chung), assisted by a group of volunteers from the Hamilton Philatelic Society, conducted trials of a protective pellicle applied to philatelic mail.

The concept is similar to the peelable labels in use in Denmark and elsewhere. The postal customer desiring a philatelic or hand cancel asks a counter clerk to apply it manually. The protective pellicle is then placed over the stamp and cancel, and the cover is placed in the mail stream. Any subsequent cancellations will be applied on the pellicle, which is removed by the recipient of the letter, revealing the stamp and original hand cancel beneath.



The experimental pellicle, illustrated above, is made of thin plastic, and is approximately 2 inches by three inches. It was tested on mail up to 8.5 by 11 inches.

The process of using the pellicle is simple and fast. Canada Post would attract much good will by bringing these, or something similar, into general use across the country.

Meanwhile, the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association, an organization of 13 stamp clubs in southern Ontario, is circulating a petition among its member clubs protesting the heavy cancels, mutilation of stamps, and unnecessary cancels on incoming foreign mail. This has been a growing complaint for a number of years, but so far there has been no sign of a satisfactory resolution.

ROYAL '98 ROYALE

The 1998 RPSC convention and exhibition will be held in Hamilton from May 29 to 31, hosted by the Hamilton Philatelic Society. Show chairman John Miller and his committee are already busy with arrangements. The Hamilton Convention Centre has room for 50 dealers. Over 25 have already signed up. Mr. Miller wants a minimum of 100 frames. There will also be participation by several postal administrations, displays by security printers, a stamp launch, seminars, and a banquet. Updated information will appear in this journal. Mr. Miller can be contacted at Royal 98, Box 1998, LCD 1, Hamilton, ON L8L 8J5; phone/fax (905) 957-3100; or E-mail: royal98@interlynx.net There is also a Web site: http://home.interlynx.net/~royal98

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by Hans Reiche

A NEW ADMIRAL "FIND"

The 2¢ Admiral endwise coils came in three different types, as described by George C. Marler. On the first type, from Plate 1, "paste-ups covered the bottom margin of the sheet, in which there was no inscription." on the second type, Plate 2, "the imprint and plate number were entered above and below the second and third rows of each half, and the order number above and below the ninth row." The third type came from Plates 154 to 156, from Post Office sheets made in the second retouched time period.



The pair illustrated, with the top margin, comes from the second retouched state, and shows a part of the guide arrow that was used to cut the sheets apart. As far as is known, this pair is the first that has been reported with such a guide arrow. It was originally found by Hank Narbonne of Greenwood Stamps.

THE 48¢ CRADLE MISSING COLOUR

Not many copies of the missing magenta colour on the 48¢ Cradle stamps have been located. Recently two more copies turned up. One is mint; the other is a used copy. One copy of this variety was exhibited by the Canadian Bank Note Company at CAPEX.

STITCH WATERMARK ON ADMIRALS

For years I have been trying to find a stitch watermark on the Admirals. Such watermarks exist on many issues and some collections contain copies. For the first time, as far as I can determine, the 1¢ Green Admiral has been located with a stitch watermark in the right margin. I would like to hear of any other reports of this watermark on an Admiral.

CANADIAN PROOFS

Canadian proof material has always been popular. Many collectors purchased these proofs to enhance their collections. Exhibiting without having any proofs often resulted in lower awards than went to those with proofs.

Proofs represent the initial stages of a postage stamp. Most proofs were sharp, clear and very attractive. Most stamp proofs exist in the original and issued colour, and often as well, in various trial colours. Samples of proofs had to be submitted to the postal authorities for final acceptance prior to starting the actual printing process of the stamps.

Although such proofs were not to be sold or released to the general public, many found their way into the stamp market. In most cases the quantities of such Canadian proof material that found its way onto the market was small.

The larger quantities of proofs that the bank note companies sent to the Post Office were kept by the Philatelic Section for their museum for their museum and reference collection. Often such proofs were kept in special vaults and

many saw daylight only after many years. For example, all the proofs of all Canadian postage due stamps were suddenly located. Because many looked to be multiple copies of particular issues or denominations, it was thought that it was necessary to keep just one instead of sometimes 20 of them.

Proof specialists pointed out that many were not the same at all, but differed due to various printings, were taken from hardened or unhardened dies, or were retouched or reworked. None of these were available to collectors except for research purposes.

Auction catalogues regularly contained proof material of many issues. But for years no mention was made in most general Canadian stamp catalogues , and so no prices for them could be determined. Often, only suggested prices were quoted.

The book, *Essays and Proofs of British North America* by Kenneth Minuse and Robert H. Pratt, published in 1970, was one of the first to record prices for Canadian proofs. Taking the economic climate of that period into account, the prices quoted for these proofs were high. Many of them were known only in the archival collections and thus were simply not available.

There were collectors who carefully purchased proofs, die and plate proofs wherever they found them, and thus formed nice collections of them. Sooner or later these collections found themselves on the open market. If anyone who visited Gimble's store in New York about 30 years ago will remember that one display case was full of such nice plate proofs from many issues.

A copy of the 12 Pence plate proof overprinted vertically with the word "Specimen" could not be purchased for less than $1,500. Good copies with nice margins brought even higher prices. It is interesting that some of these proofs were cleverly doctored up and the word "Specimen" was erased to make them appear to be examples of the more elusive proofs without the overprint. Mounted on a card, such an example looked like a die proof, and such proofs are worth over $2,000. The plate proof of the 3 Pence Beaver with overprints in various colours used to sell for around $400 some years ago.

A few years ago the American Bank Note Company in New York sold all their Canadian proofs through the auction house of Christie. The number of proofs that came on the market was substantial. They ranged from the Pence Issue through the later Queen Victoria issues. Although not all this material went through the auction it made an indent in prices.

Some of the material was taken away by the government for their philatelic reference collection. This sale reduced the prices of many proofs that subsequently came on the market. Take the example of the 12 Pence proofs. These now usually go for about half the previous prices. Much the same applies to other proof material. The 3 Pence Beaver, a popular stamp, now brings about $60 to $100 maximum for a proof.

One should be careful in selecting proofs. most of them look very nice, but often they have minor faults such as thins, cut-in margins, and other paper flaws. Collectors often exhibit such proofs. Buyers should also be aware that fading of proofs is common. All such flaws, of course, reduce the price and value of proof material.

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For information membership application forms, write to the Secretary:

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Jim's Stamp Corner
with Jim Measures

JIM, THE ARGO-NUT

Now that the football season is in full swing, my wife and family will once again have to put up with this long-suffering Argo fan. Noting the violence of hockey and the slow-measured pace of a baseball game, I have found the ideal sport to unite physical activity with intense strategy, combined with ever-changing luck. For the football fan, born in Toronto, luck is called "The Argo Bounce."

For the past 40 years we Argo fans have gotten used to seeing our beloved Argonauts start their season with high expectations, all the talent, all the best strategy, only to have the team "bounced" out of contention.

In 1987 Canada Post issued a 36¢ stamp to honour the 75th Grey Cup Championship. In 1909 Governor General Earl Grey donated a $48.00 silver cup as a trophy for the amateur rugby football championship of Canada. The University of Toronto defeated the Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club in the first championship game.



In 1921 the Grey Cup became a national event, perhaps even an instrument of national unity when a western team first competed. Nevertheless, my beloved Argonauts won that game. From then, the Argos were the dominant force in Canadian football up until 1952.

I was in my first year of high school in November 1952 when Frankie Filchok of the Edmonton Eskimos missed his assignment to cover Zeke O'Connor. This allowed the great Argo quarterback, Nobby Wirkowski, to throw a pass to Zeke to win the Argo's 10th Grey Cup. Clearly, the Argo Bounce was working as it should — all was right with the world.

It wasn't until 1991, the year before my retirement, that the Argos won the Grey Cup again.

At the time of the Grey Cup stamp in 1987, Argo fans had come to equate the Argo Bounce with bad luck. The supreme example was the 1971 Grey Cup played against Calgary in Vancouver's Empire Stadium. That day it didn't just rain, it poured. But when Dick Thornton intercepted a Calgary pass on their 11-yard line, Argo fans everywhere knew it was a bright cheerful day. After all, we had Leon McQuay, the "most talented running back of all time." We had forgotten the Argo Bounce. Just over a minute remained in the game. A touchdown would bring the Grey Cup back to Argoland where it belonged. Joe Theismann, the incomparable quarterback, gave the ball to Leon. Then it happened. As if a giant had come up to the 10-yard line, Leon tripped, the ball "bounced" loose and Calgary's Reggie Holmes fell on it. Calgary didn't win the 1971 Grey Cup — the Argos bounced it to them.

That was then — This is now! We Argo-nuts say again, "This is the year." The Argo Bounce will again provide good luck and Grey Cup success for our team.

As philatelists, we often find ourselves in the library. While researching something in the Clifford library I came across a book by Jay Teilel entitled *The Argo Bounce.* It was more painful than I can say to read the account of the Argo misfortunes down through the years. But as Jay points out, the fans always suffer most when The Bounce goes wrong. In one case a fan died of heart failure when the hated Tiger Cats took advantage of the Argo Bounce.

I don't plan to die over the Argos. I will just return to my den and get lost in a stamp album.

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RoyPh97



UNDER THE HAMMER

.... with Dean Mario

Jim A. Hennock Ltd.'s public auction of May 24, 1997 contained several wonderful items which are now destined for honoured places in collectors' albums. Perhaps the most intriguing story from this sale concerns the strong demand for Asian material, and the many bargains obtained by knowledgeable buyers of classic Canadian stamps..

Lot 55 featured the 1917 British Offices in China overprints in the George V 1¢ to $10 Hong Kong decimals in mint condition. The lot ha a $732 *Scott Standard Catalogue* value noted. The set sold for an amazing $2,300 (prices include the 15% buyer's fee).

A 1903-1967 mint and used collection from Hong Kong with 125 stamps, including several nicer items, sold for $2,300 as lot 90. The catalogue value was listed at $1,035. Lot 95 contained a "mildly toned" LH mint fine single of the Hong Kong 1891 2¢Rose with the "Jubilee" overprint. It was valued at $225 and sold for an incredible $1,380. If readers have classic Hong Kong to sell, now would seem to be the time to do so!

Many bargains in Canada and British North America items were found in this sale. Lot 247 featured a VF+ lightly hinged mint copy of Newfoundland's 1920 3¢ on 15¢ Scarlet seals with Type 1 overprint (narrow bars). A *1997 Unitrade Canadian Specialized Catalogue* value of $300 was given and the lot went to a happy buyer for only $97.75.

Another Newfoundland item, the 1932 $1.50 on $1 "Dornier DO-X" overprint in mint NH condition sold for $218.50 despite a *Unitrade* value of $675.

If you needed the Canadian 1908 Quebec Centenary set for your collection this sale offered sets in mint and used condition. Lot 827 contained the entire set NH with a few stamps with trivial gum bends and in VG to VF condition. The *Unitrade* value in fine condition was $596. The lot realized $517.50.The used set (lot 829). many with circle date stamps or corner cancels in F-VF condition, was noted at $570 according to the *Unitrade* ctalogue and sold for a very reasonable $149.50.

A spectacular nineteenth-century wreck cover collection was made available to postal historians, and lot 693 was one of the choice items from this collection. It was an 1894 10¢ Small Queen cover from Montreal via New York to London, England. It bore a three-line rubber handstamp denoting that it was damaged by the wreck of the "mail train on Lake Champlain, New York" and was sealed by three British "Officially Sealed" labels. Estimated at $500+, the cover sold for $1,035.

Canadian classic material is always popular in this firm's sales. Many items were once again offered to tempt collectors. Lot 705 held a nice copy of the 1851 12d Black Victoria with the "Specimen" overprint and full to large margins. Although the item had a minute thin (stated by the auctioneer as possibly natural), the item would have made a wonderful addition to any collection. With a *Unitrade* value of $1,500, the stamp sold for $460.

Two of the sale's many good buys were contained in lots 712 and 713. Lot 712 was a "three-clear-even-margined" used example of the 1855 6d Slate Grey Consort. With a catalogue estimate of $1,000, the lot sold for only $161. A 6d Grey Violet example, of the same stamp in lot 713, again with three large margins and just in at the top left side with a socked-on-the-nose cancel, sold for $199.50 against a catalogue value of $1,900.

Jim A. Hennock Ltd.'s fall sales look promising with a great deal of splendid material for collectors. The firm can be contacted for information or auction catalogues at 185 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 1S2; telephone (416) 363-7757; fax (416) 365-9932.

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OF SILK PURSES AND SOW'S EARS

Our learned editor has some words of wisdom concerning old schoolboy collections in his editorial in the July-August 1996 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist.* I too have had to deal with these situations from time to time.

One of the worst was having to tell a widow that the almost $40,000 she had invested in one of those stamp portfolio schemes was now worth a great deal less than that. She eventually sold the portfolio, but I don't know how much was realized. I have, on occasion, been asked by widows or family of deceased stamp collectors, to assist them in disposing of a collection. Only once was there a really good saleable collection. The others have been, for the most part, mint Canada and U.S.A., first day covers, and other material that is simply a glut on the market.

Mint recent commemoratives, as we all know, will get you 75¢ on the dollar if you can catch a stamp dealer in a generous mood. First day covers? You can find these in boxes at any dealers table priced at considerably less than the original purchaser paid at the post office.

In these situations we all try to do the best we can for the families concerned, but in the end, I wonder if they think that you might not have been completely honest with them. After all, "Dad spent all his spare time working on his stamps." Maybe, but if you, "Dad", want to spend your money on Canada first day covers or exotic wallpaper from the Trucial States, you should at least be honest with your family.

Tell them that what you have been collecting since you came out of the Forces at the end of the war is basically worthless, but it has given you a lot of pleasure over the years, and that surely is the object of the exercise. You should also tell them not to count too much on the proceeds to supplement their retirement income.

This has really been brought home to me with a recent incident involving a collection I have been asked to help with in order to settle an estate.

This collection was assembled by a fellow with whom I was in the Railway Mail Service some thirty years ago. It is a very bulky accumulation of worldwide and British Commonwealth in Harris Citation and Minkus albums. There is the usual box of mint Canada (close to $1,000 face value), some mint U.S.A., a couple of boxes of Canada FDCs, and four *Story of Canada* albums issued by Excelsior Collectors Guild. These, I seem to recall, were another type of philatelic investment scheme, complete with FDCs, but with a twist. They have 24ct gold foil images set into them and this was the promotional feature. By my calculations my late colleague paid close to $1,200 for them. You tell me what they are worth today: $200 to $300 perhaps.

The really poignant fact in all of this is that my late friend's widow has M.S. and the family, who have no interest in philately, want to use the proceeds from the sale of the collection to keep their mother in her home as long as possible.

There are some good items, the first issues of Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Man, for example. But for the most part there just isn't a whole lot there. I have advised the family of this, and told them that the best way to deal with it is to send it out to auction, for whatever it goes for.

I normally take a modest commission when I handle collections such as this, to cover my expenses. I won't in this case, given the circumstances, and given the fact that my late father also had M.S. and so can empathize, perhaps better than most, with the desires of the family.

To return to the title of this column, you really can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. If you want to collect modern material churned out by postal administrations around the world, go ahead. But please tell your wives and children that you are having fun, and not to expect any great return at the end of the day. It will make the jobs of those of us who have to clean up after you so much easier.

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GUERNSEY CAPEX 96 SOUVENIR SHEET: BEST CANADIANA OF 1996

The CAPEX 96 souvenir sheet issued by Guernsey has topped the competition for the best Canadiana stamp of 1996. The multi-coloured sheet was the runaway favourite in the fifth annual popularity poll conducted among members of the Canadiana Study Unit.

The souvenir sheet honours Guernsey-born Major-General Sir Isaac Brock as the "Hero of Upper Canada" in the War of 1812.

On June 18, 1812 the United States declared war on Great Britain and Canada. Although the Canadians and British were badly outnumbered by the Americans, they were better prepared for war, thanks largely to Major-General Isaac Brock, who at the time was the administrator of Upper Canada, now Ontario. The war eventually ended in a stalemate some two and a half years later, culminating in the Treaty of Ghent, signed on December 24, 1814.



Isaac Brock was born on High Street at St. Peter Port, Guernsey, on October 6, 1769 and began a career in the army at the young age of 15. Rising rapidly through the ranks, he served under Admiral Lord Nelson, among others. By the age of 27 he was Lieutenant-Colonel in the 49th Foot Regiment. He arrived in Canada with the 49th Foot in 1802. Brock was to spend the rest of his life in Canada. In 1811 he was promoted to Major-General and was made provisional administrator of Upper Canada, serving as both the military Commander and head of the civil government.

Brock distinguished himself in the early stages of the War of 1812. In one episode, he took a small force to Detroit and fooled the General Hull, the American commander, into believing the Canadian side had far greater manpower than was actually the case. Brock captured Detroit, and Hull surrendered to him. For this, Brock was knighted on October 12, 1812. However, just three days later, when again leading troops against the American enemy, this time at Queenston Heights, Sir Isaac Brock was killed by a sharp shooter.

Befitting his hero status, Brock was buried at the summit of Queenston Heights. An imposing monument stands over his grave and dominates the battlefield today.

Postal officials in Guernsey deemed Brock an appropriate subject to honour CAPEX 96, the international show held in Toronto last year. The souvenir sheet was designed by Andie Peck of Norwich, England.

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The commemorative miniature sheet draws together several elements of the Brock story. Depicted are a map of Upper Canada as it existed in 1812 and a map of Guernsey in the English Channel off Cherbourg, France. A £1 in the upper right reproduces the figure of Brock on his trusty horse Alfred. The painting, which is on display in the lobby of the Schmon Tower on the Brock University campus, was originally commissioned for its student recruitment program. On the bottom left of the sheet is a 24p stamp showing Brock with Indian leader Tecumseh.

Early in the War of 1812 Brock had wisely set about winning the support of the native population. Brock's success in gaining the backing of Tecumseh, one of the most influential of the Indian leaders, ensured the Canadians widespread native support against the Americans.

To commemorate Guernsey's attendance at CAPEX, the Guernsey sheet was issued in Toronto on the opening day of CAPEX 96, June 8. The red and black CAPEX logo appears at the bottom right corner of the souvenir sheet. Held in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the 1996 show was Canada's fourth version of CAPEX, and was the largest stamp show ever held in Canada.

The Guernsey sheets were printed in the Netherlands by Enschedé using offset lithography on coated unwatermarked paper.

Coming in a distant second in the 1996 popularity poll was a stamp depicting a Canadian warship. The stamp, from Gibraltar, was issued se-tenant with three others in a miniature sheet format. The bottom right stamp portrays the Canadian corvette HMCS *Prescott* during World War II. The 54p stamp is part of an ongoing "Warships of World War II" series being issued by Gibraltar. With a displacement of 925 tons, the *Prescott* played an important role for the Allies in securing the ports and airfields of North Africa. She had first headed south to the Mediterranean in September of 1942. The *Prescott* was sent to assist in "Operation Torch," as code named by Winston Churchill. The operation involved the landing in Africa of 35,000 troops, 250 tanks, and other support equipment. While assisting in the African invasion on March 13, 1943, HMCS *Prescott* detected a German U-boat in the Bay of Biscay and successfully destroyed it.

The Gibraltar stamps were issued on June 8, 1996. The designer was Derek Miller. Walsall Security Printers Limited produced the stamps in England by offset lithography, using four colours.

Finishing third in the balloting was the CAPEX 96 set of stamps issued by Barbados. On the theme "Transportation Links Canada," the four stamps in the set depict Canadian aircraft: 10¢, Canadian Airlines DC-10; 90¢, Air Canada Boeing 767; $1, Air Canada Airbus 320; $1.40, Canadian Airlines Boeing 767. An air link between Canada and Barbados was first established in 1949 with a scheduled service from Montreal using a North Star DC Mark 2. Today, a number of airlines serve routes from Canada to Barbados, a popular destination for vacationers. The stamps were printed in twin panes of 25, with an illustrated gutter strip between them. The stamps were designed by Nick Shewring. Printing was in Barbados by COT Printery Limited using lithography on CA spiral watermarked paper. The stamps were issued in Toronto on June 7, the day before the CAPEX exhibition opened.

In fourth place in the voting was a South Africa souvenir sheet, another release to mark CAPEX 96. This sheet depicts the Houses of Parliament in Toronto and Cape Town.

John Peebles heads the Canadiana Study Unit, a group of collectors who pursue Canadian themes on foreign stamps. Membership in the group costs $10 per year, and includes a subscription to the award-winning newsletter, The Canadian Connection. More information is available from Mr. Peebles at Box 3262, Station A, London, ON N6A 4K3.

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FAKE CANADIAN DOUBLE PERFS

by Leopold Beaudet and John Jamieson

At the Great Western Stamp Show held in Richmond, B.C. on 14-16 February 1997, dealers were approached by an individual from Burnaby with a stock book brimming with double perforation varieties. The stock book included strips of most coils issued since the 1973 Caricature Issue. Although the varieties looked genuine, dealers Gary J. Lyon of Bathurst, N.B. and John Jamieson of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre were immediately suspicious because of the large quantity of material being offered. As it turns out, all the double perf coils were fakes. John Jamieson deliberately acquired some of the material, the strips illustrated in this story, to provide evidence of the fakes.

The strips of coils at the Richmond show had 13 stamps with double perforations. There was even a strip of 13 of the 1983 32¢ Maple Leaf coil with two extra rows of perforations, a triple perf variety. However, all the coils from the 1969 6¢ orange Centennial coil onwards were perforated just 12 rows at a time. This is borne out by imperforate coil varieties which usually have 12 rows of perforations missing, and by such irregularities such as bent perforation pins which repeat every 12 rows.

Three strips of coils with fake double perforations as acquired by John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre: 10¢ Queen Elizabeth Caricature; 14¢ Parliament; 32¢ Maple Leaf.



An imperforate coil strip caused by a missing strike of the perforator affects 13 stamps. Eleven are completely imperforate and two are imperforate on one side only. Whoever produced these fakes must have thought that since a missing strike affects 13 stamps, an extra strike should also affect 13.

Fake Perfs on the "A" Coil Explained in Detail

The "A" coil John Jamieson acquired has a second anomaly that proves it is a fake. This strip is illustrated at right, with two sets of numbers above it and one set below. The numbers beginning with "F" refer to the fake perforations, the "P" numbers refer to the genuine perforations, and the "S" numbers refer to the stamps. The stamp numbers go up to 36 and then start over at 1. The stamps are numbered this way because there is a design jump between stamps S36 and S1.

All coils from the 6¢ orange Centennial onwards are printed from two plates, each with 36 rows by 20 columns of stamps. Each plate is fixed to a printing cylinder, and forms a semicircle around it. Where the two plates meet, there is usually a design jump or spacing variety between the last stamp on one plate and the first on the next. The design jump on the "A" strip appears as a slight (0.5 mm) downwards shift of stamp S1 relative to stamp S36.

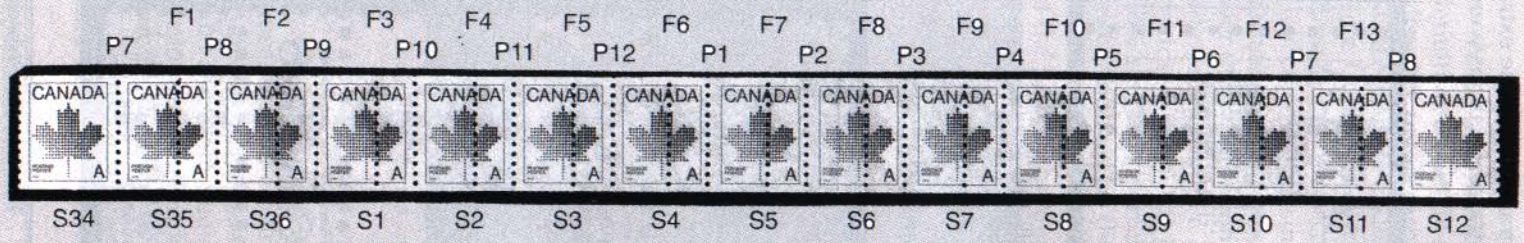
The coils also have "perforation jumps" after every 12 rows of perforations. These are caused by successive strikes of the perforator. The perforation jump on the "A" strip occurs on stamp S4. The perforations to the left of stamp S4 are all centred, whereas the perforations to the right of S4 are shifted to the left, causing the stamps to be off-centred. Because of the shift, stamp S4 is smaller than normal. All the perforations up to P12 belong to one strike of the perforator, and those numbered from P1 on belong to the next strike. There is also a minor spacing irregularity in the normal perforations beginning at P7. At this point, the perforations are shifted slightly to the right. This is not caused by a strike misalignment, but rather by a spacing variation in the rows of pins.

On the "A" strip, the fake perforations are always exactly the same distance from the normal perforations, and to the right of them. If the same perforator produced the normal and extra perforations, this would be impossible. To see why, consider the spacing irregularity between P12 and P1 caused by the strike misalignment. The fake row of perforations at F6 is the same distance from P1 as F5 is from P12. This means that there is a spacing irregularity in the fake perforations between F5 and F6. However, if rows F5 and F6 are in the middle of the perforator, a strike misalignment could not possibly occur at this point. Therefore, the spacing irregularity in the extras perforations should not exist.

The spacing anomaly in the extra perforations implies that they were produced one row at a time, unlike the normal perforations, which were produced 12 rows at a time. The faker took pains to position each row of extra perforations at precisely the same distance to the left of the normal ones, thus inadvertently mirroring the spacing irregularities in the normal perforations. He did not realize that he was reproducing a strike misalignment in the middle of the supposed extra strike.

The 32¢ Maple Leaf Coil

There as another anomaly on the 32¢ Maple Leaf coil. The genuine perforations have one or more crooked holes in most rows, the result of bent perforation pins.



908 – "A"(30¢) Maple Leaf Coil – FAKE DOUBLE PERF

Strip of 15 with "13" extra rows of perforations added.
The "real" perforator has only 12 rows of pins.



605 – 10¢ Queen Coil – FAKE DOUBLE PERF

Strip of 15 with "13" extra rows of perforations added.
The "real" perforator has only 12 rows of pins.

There are no such irregularities in the extra rows of perforations. All the extra holes are perfectly aligned. Obviously, the regular and extra perforations were not produced by the same perforator.



Enlargement of the 32¢ Maple Leaf coil shows the minor spacing and alignment irregularities in the genuine perforations caused by bent pins, and the perfectly aligned holes of the fake perforations.

Fake Extra Perfs on the 6¢ Pearson Caricature?

The individual offering the coils at the Richmond show also had several blocks of the 1973 6¢ Pearson Caricature definitive, including a lower left plate block with the horizontal and vertical perforations doubled. Given the source of the block, the chances that it is a fake are very high. Unlike the coil strips, unfortunately, there are no known perforation anomalies to prove this.



A Very Doubtful Variety: The 6¢ Pearson block with extra horizonal and vertical perforations, acquired from the same source as the fake coil double perfs.

Extra Perfs on the $2.00 McAdam Station

A similar "variety" exists on the 1989 $2.00 McAdam Railway Station definitive, offered in a March 1996 auction by Regency Stamps Ltd. of St. Louis, Missouri. In this case, there is no doubt that the extra perforations are fake. The $2.00 McAdam Station stamp was first printed by the British American Bank Note Company (BABN) who perforated it by feeding the sheets vertically through a two-row comb perforator. The perforating technique is confirmed by a spectacular missing strike error described in the 2 January 1990 issue of *Canadian Stamp News*. In 1992, the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBN) took over the printing contract, and perforated their printings by feeding the sheets sideways through a one-row comb perforator. The short column of the extra vertical holes in the bottom row of stamps might have been produced by the CBN sideways perforation method. This hole pattern could not possibly have been produced by the BABN vertical perforation. Unfortunately for the faker, he chose to ply his dubious craft on a block with the unmistakable characteristics of the BABN printing.



The British American Bank Note printing of the 1989 $2.00 McAdam Railway Station with fake extra perforations in both directions.

Other "Extra Perforation" Varieties

Over the past few years, several other fake extra perforation varieties have appeared on the market. In a December 1996 auction, Paradise Valley Stamp Company of Scottsdale, Arizona had a lower left plate block of four of the 1989 $2.00 McAdam Station with a quite different extra perforation variety. The auctioneer, Mr. Torbjorn Bjork, withdrew the lot from the auction because the extra perforations were fake.

On this plate block, the vertical perforations are doubled but there are no extra horizontal perforations. The fake is easy to detect by someone familiar

with comb perforating characteristics. Where the extra vertical perforations cross the normal horizontal ones, the holes do not line up so there should be extra horizontal perforations along with the extra vertical ones. Since there aren't any, the extra vertical perforations could not have been produced by the comb perforator used by the printer, British American Bank Note Company. Thus this variety is a fake.

Similar fakes are known on the 1978 14¢ Ice Vessels quartet, described in the 11 September 1990 issue of *Canadian Stamp News*, and on the Canadian Bank Note printing of the 1977 1¢ and 2¢ Floral definitives. The latter were offered in a June 1994 auction conducted by Jim Hennock Ltd., and were clearly identified as fakes in the auction catalogue.



The 1978 14¢ Ice Vessels block with fake extra vertical perforations. Such a variety could not be produced by the comb perforator used by the printer of this stamp.

Mr. Bjork withdrew several other extra perforation lots from the December 1996 Paradise Valley Stamp Company auction because they were consigned by the same person as the $2.00 McAdam Station variety, and they all appeared to be fake. This person is from the Toronto area.

The lots in question included a peculiar part perforate variety on the Hong Kong 1968 $1.00 Coat-of Arms definitive, and several examples of the British Commonwealth King George V and George VI stamps perforated "SPECIMEN", both straight line and horseshoe shaped.

Mr. Bjork also rejected some high value 1898 Jubilee stamps from the same individual because they were proofs perforated to look like the issued stamps. Collectors of classic material, as well as modern, should beware of fake perforations.

Part Imperforate Strips

In 1995 and 1996, two prominent Toronto auction houses and one in Hong Kong offered several peculiar part imperforate varieties on Canadian stamps similar to the Hong Kong piece withdrawn by Mr. Bjork. The included:

1. a strip of three of the 1958 5¢ Champlain commemorative
2. a strip of three of the 1959 Royal Visit stamp
3. a strip of four of the 1964 Royal Visit issue.

In all three cases, the top or bottom of the strip appears to be imperforate, except for part of the right stamp. One of the Toronto auction houses also offered an item from Hong Kong, a strip of four of the 1962 $1.00 Queen Elizabeth definitive imperforate at bottom except for part of the right stamp, and several British Commonwealth stamps perforated "SPECIMEN".

The Toronto auctioneer refused to handle subsequent extra perforation material submitted by the consignor. Subsequently, the Hong Kong auctioneer offered at least two more part perforate strips on Hong Kong stamps.



A sketch of the fake part imperforate variety on the 1958 5¢ Champlain commemorative.

The part imperforate strips were faked by carefully trimming one side of the stamps just short of where the normal perforations would start to appear. Fake perforation holes were added on part of one stamp, presumably to make the strips look like an unusual perforation variety, rather than what they are, namely, normal stamps with one edge trimmed.

The fakes are especially obvious on the Hong Kong stamps because these issues were comb perforated. On a comb perforated stamp, the spacing between adjacent rows of perforations is fixed. However, on all four Hong Kong examples, the partial row of perforations is one hole too close to the normal perforations on the other side of the stamp. These peculiar part imperforate varieties began appearing on the market about two years ago. They had never previously been reported, although the stamps are 25 to 40 years old.

In no case does a "proving block" (that is a block with stamps that are part imperforate between) exist, nor have other parts of the part imperforate strips been offered for sale.

General Characteristics of Fake Perf Varieties

On all the fake perforation varieties, the perforation holes look like the normal ones. The extra holes are the same diameter as the normal ones, the

shape of the holes looks normal, the spacing between the holes appears correct, and the perforation gauge is identical. All the fake extra perforation varieties were detected because it was impossible for the perforator that produced the normal perforations to produce the extra ones. On the coils, for example, the fact that there are 13 rather than 12 rows of extra perforations is key to detecting the fakes.

On the 14¢ Ice Vessels, the fact that the extra perforations occur in just one direction but do not line up with the normal holes where they intersect clearly proves the "variety" is a fake. On the part imperforate "varieties," the fact that the imperforate margins are trimmed too close to the stamps and the fact that the holes on the part imperforate side are too close to the holes on the opposite side of the stamp gives the fakes away. In all these cases, the extra holes themselves look like the normal ones.

The fact that the fake perforation holes look normal has some disturbing ramifications for variety collectors. One can surmise that an extra perforation variety is probably fake if it has an anomaly that the perforator used by the printer of the stamp could not have produced. On the other hand, it appears impossible to prove conclusively that an extra perforation variety is genuine. For example, a strip of 13 coils with extra perforations is demonstrably a fake, but if the strip is separated into pairs or strips of four, the evidence vanishes.

The extra perforations on the 6¢ Caricature definitive are even more disturbing. The extra perforations look genuine. However, given the source, how could anyone accept the variety as genuine and pay a premium for it? Given the sophistication of the false perforations, how can one be sure of the genuineness of ANY perforation variety? The short answer is : one can't.

Even the stamp expertization committees have had problems with extra perforations on coils. Last year, two pairs of the 1983 32¢ Maple Leaf coil with two rows of extra perforations were submitted to the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. In both cases, the Foundation issued certificates stating that the varieties were genuine. Previously John Jamieson spotted a strip of the 32¢ coil with two similar rows of double perforations on 13 stamps among the extra perforation coils at the Richmond show. Although the pairs submitted to the Foundation could be genuine, it is doubtful that anyone could prove it unequivocally.

In 1995, the Comité d'expertise de la Fédération québecoise de philatélie issued a certificate stating that a strip of 17 of the 1978 14¢ Parliament coil with double perforations on 13 stamps was genuine. Unfortunately, the expertization committee did not count the number of stamps with doubled perforations, or did not appreciate the significance of there being 13 rather than 12.

Implications for Perfins

The fact that good fakes of British Commonwealth stamps perforated "SPECIMEN" are showing up should raise a cautionary flag with collectors of Canadian stamps perforated "OHMS" and produced by the federal government between 1912 and 1947. Dangerous fakes of the perforated OHMS varieties were discovered in large numbers as far back as 1978 and 1979. Extra caution should be exercised now.

Conclusions

The authors know of several extra perforation varieties that were found at post offices. These discoveries are unquestionably genuine. However, once such a discovery is publicized and a photograph published, what is to prevent a faker from producing imitations of the discovery?

With the publication of this article, the problem of distinguishing genuine varieties from the fakes grows even more acute. On the one hand, this article provides collectors with some ammunition for detecting fakes. On the other hand, the faker can use the same information as a guide to correct his mistakes and produce fakes that look even more convincing. Unfortunately, unless some way can be found to identify positively all fake perforations, EVERY extra perforation variety must be viewed as suspect.

Editor's notes:
Mr. Leopold Beaudet is working on a sequel to this article. It is to be submitted to *B.N.A. Topics*, the journal of the British North America Philatelic Society, for publication in 1998.

Mr. Beaudet's co-author, John Jamieson, owner of Saskatoon Stamps, is one of the leading dealers in Canadian varieties. He advises as follows:

> "As the owner of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre, I have bought and sold many double perf varieties over the years. With this discovery it is now painfully clear that some of them were likely fakes. Others that are likely perfectly fine are now highly suspect. Anyone who has ever purchased any such "varieties" from the Saskatoon Stamp Centre is asked to please contact us. Sort of a philatelic "Recall" notice. Whether it is one of the obviously guilty double perf fakes or even if it is one we feel is OK, but you are feeling a bit uneasy about your investment , please contact us. If you are the least bit concerned about your purchase we will gladly refund your money. Regardless, we want to discuss what you obtained through us and establish what you have. At the Saskatoon Stamp Centre we guarantee everything to be genuine, forever."

Mr. Jamieson can be contacted at the Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Box 1870, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S2.

Mr. Leopold Beaudet of Ottawa is an accomplished collector, philatelic researcher, and writer.

Mr. John Jamieson of Saskatoon is owner of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre. His firm specializes in BNA material, both classic material and modern varieties.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S STAMP JOURNALS

by Michael O. Nowlan

In *How to Collect Stamps*, author Ralph A. Kimble says, "I do not consider any person proficient in collecting (stamps) or in knowledge of collecting until he has at least a working acquaintance with the greatest of all sources of information, the philatelic press."

Kimble's observation is probably little read these days since his book was published in 1933 and is usually available only at auctions and libraries. Nonetheless, Mr. Kimble echoes the sentiments of stamp collectors for almost 150 years. It is the philatelic press — journals, newspapers, catalogues, handbooks, and reference works — through which a knowledge of postal history and facts is gleaned.

Although New Brunswick has no philatelic journals today, such was not always the case. In fact, New Brunswick can boast of having Canada's second philatelic periodical, and, if one were to stretch a point, New Brunswick could claim the first successful stamp publication in this country.

George Stewart's *The Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette* made its appearance June 1, 1865 in Saint John, and published 24 consecutive issues without interruption. It was preceded only by *The Stamp Collector's Record*, which Ralph Mitchener says was the first stamp journal in North America. Published in Montreal by Samuel Allan Taylor on February 15, 1864, there is only one issue of *The Stamp Collector's Record* extant and it is rare. A second number is said to have been printed. If it was, no copy has survived. After his brief foray into stamp journals, Taylor moved to the United States.

The Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette flourished with news on new issues of stamps from information provided "by correspondents around the world." Stewart wrote features on specific stamps, exposed forgers and dishonest dealers, and carried on a "Chit-chat" column which was editorial comment. At one point, Stewart warned "so large a trade is being done" by forgers and dishonest dealers.

The number of advertisements from dealers throughout North America and Europe attests to the wide circulation of the *Gazette*. Stewart was also a dealer, and, even though he used his publication to promote his business, the *Gazette* was not a mere house organ for a business.

As Stewart brought down the curtain on the *Gazette* in May 1867, he wrote

"with the exception of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* and the *Philatelist*, both published in England, it has for a long time been the largest (journal) in the world." The *Gazette*, which commenced with four pages, advanced to 12 pages with the second volume.

The last issue of the *Gazette* was followed by a two-page supplement in June 1867 which concluded a lengthy list of philatelic literature commenced in the May 1867 issue. It is an impressive list that is still useful to researchers today.

Stewart was certainly proud of his accomplishment and boasted in March 1866 "owing to the almost unparalleled popularity and the very extensive circulation of the *Gazette*, we are able to offer it at terms that are unsurpassed by any other postal publication in existence."

Today, this may be considered idle boasting, but it was fact. George Stewart, Jr. had done a remarkable job considering he was only 17 years old when the first issue of the *Gazette* was published. Born in New York in 1848, Stewart came to Canada (London) with his parents in 1851 and moved to Saint John, where he grew up, soon after.



George Stewart, Jr.

Printed courtesy of the New Brunswick Museum, Saint John.

In his farewell with Volume 2 Number 24 of the *Gazette*, Stewart wrote, "new enterprises require all our spare time, and to continue the *Gazette* would be unjust to ourselves and to our patrons." He had already advertised his new enterprise as *Stewart's Literary Quarterly Magazine* which was to become one of the influential literary journals of its time. It lasted until 1872 when Stewart went to Toronto to edit *Rose-Belford's Canadian Monthly*. In 1874, Stewart became editor of the *Quebec Daily Chronicle*, a position he held until 1896.

George Stewart's stamp publication was not without competition right in Saint John. *The Stamp Argus* made its appearance on July 15, 1865 under the editorship of Edward A. Craig and proprietorship of Robert J. Melvin. The opening manifesto announced "we intend to be as obliging as we can to our subscribers and correspondents and to make our paper useful in its sphere and

to be depended on for veracity."

Like Stewart, Craig and Melvin ran a stamp business, and the aims of the *Argus* did not have a persistency. The paper moved from two pages to four in its second issue, but by No. 5, which appeared in December rather than November 1865, the fledgling venture was little more than advertisements even though it had eight pages. And that was its last issue.

E.A. Craig, however, did not fade from the scene. He was back on May 1, 1866 with *The Postman's Knock*, a four-page paper in which he stated "we do not issue it for our own personal aggrandizement," and he encouraged advertisers to come forward. Craig issued *The Postman's Knock* monthly, and by August 1 it had reached eight pages.

Owned "by the Excelsior Stamp Association," *The Postman's Knock* enjoyed almost monthly publication through 18 issues until November 1867 when "extreme illness" forced Craig to suspend publication. In October 1869, Craig was back with No. 19 and No. 20 the following month. No. 21, the last issue, did not appear until March 1870 when Craig said "we bid you farewell. During our period of editorship we have made many warm friends by our little paper."

In the September 1865 issue of *The Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette*, George Stewart announced the Prospectus for *The Colonial Stamp Advertiser* and said the first issue would be on the market October 20, 1865, but there is no reference to its actual existence.

After the flourish of stamp publications in the mid-1860s, W. Harry Bruce was the next to make a mark with *The Stamp Collector's Chronicle* whose first issue, again in Saint John, appeared in November 1872. Bruce was modest in his aspiration, saying "we shall issue this sheet (four pages) quarterly, or monthly, as occasion may require."

Initially, the *Chronicle* was little more than a sales journal for the editor, who, like Stewart and Craig, was a stamp dealer, running the Foreign Stamp Depot.

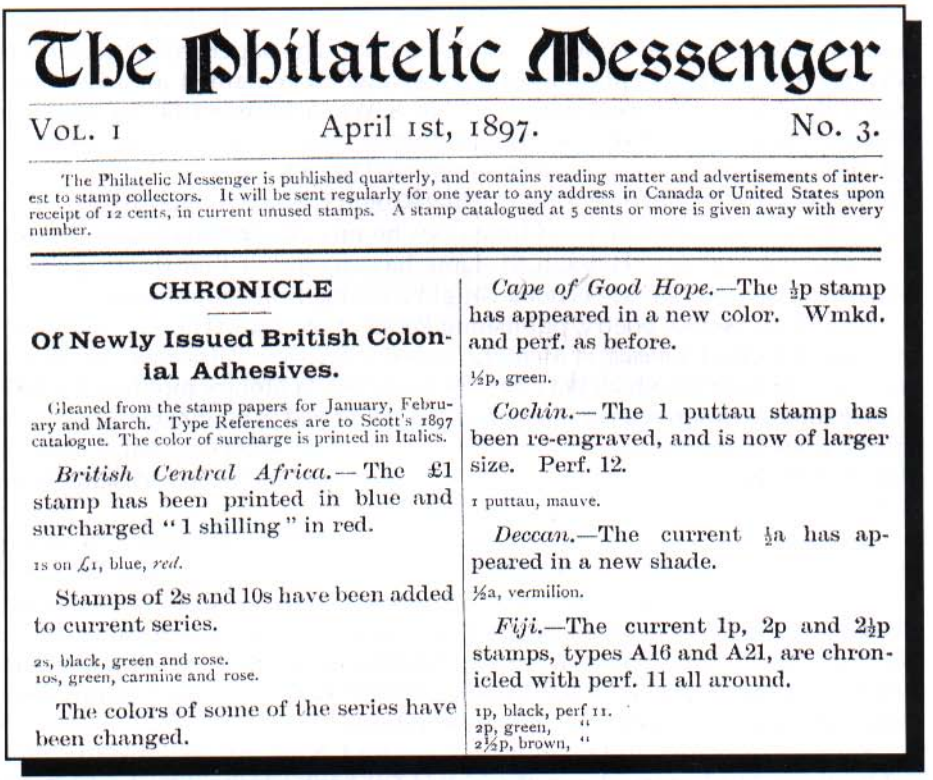
Although the Chronicle published irregularly, a couple of the advertisements catch the eye. One read, "a few of the old New Brunswick and Nova Scotia one shilling stamps on hand which we offer at $3.00 each." Today, each of those stamps catalogues, in fine mint condition, in excess of $10,000. The second notice is even more interesting.: "On hand — a few genuine New Brunswick Connell - 5 cent stamps, at $2.00 each. Cash." Genuine Connells can now sell in excess of $5,000.

By March 1873, Bruce announced a new series in a prospectus promising "we shall make it [*Chronicle*] the leading amateur Philatelic organ on the American continent." A further promise of "solid philatelic matter" was underscored.

The promises of the editor of the *Chronicle* were well beyond his effort. The new series lasted three issues with the third appearing in September 1873.

New Brunswick's contribution to the philatelic press in the 19th century was not over. On October 1, 1896, Matthew Knight of Oak Hill, Charlotte County published a first issue of *The Philatelic Messenger.* Another stamp dealer, Knight said *The Philatelic Messenger* "is published quarterly and contains reading matter and advertisements of interest to stamp collectors."

The first issue had eight pagers and the second (January 1897) had 24 pages. There were items on new issues, features on specific stamps, and Knight's quarterly price list. His "Notes" column was informative and newsy. In one column he asks,



The Philatelic Messenger

VOL. 1 April 1st, 1897. No. 3.

The Philatelic Messenger is published quarterly, and contains reading matter and advertisements of interest to stamp collectors. It will be sent regularly for one year to any address in Canada or United States upon receipt of 12 cents, in current unused stamps. A stamp catalogued at 5 cents or more is given away with every number.

CHRONICLE

Of Newly Issued British Colonial Adhesives.

Gleaned from the stamp papers for January, February and March. Type References are to Scott's 1897 catalogue. The color of surcharge is printed in Italics.

British Central Africa.— The £1 stamp has been printed in blue and surcharged "1 shilling" in red.

1s on £1, blue, *red.*

Stamps of 2s and 10s have been added to current series.

2s, black, green and rose.
10s, green, carmine and rose.

The colors of some of the series have been changed.

Cape of Good Hope.—The ½p stamp has appeared in a new color. Wmkd. and perf. as before.

½p, green.

Cochin.— The 1 puttau stamp has been re-engraved, and is now of larger size. Perf. 12.

1 puttau, mauve.

Deccan.—The current ½a has appeared in a new shade.

½a, vermilion.

Fiji.—The current 1p, 2p and 2½p stamps, types A16 and A21, are chronicled with perf. 11 all around.

1p, black, perf 11.
2p, green, "
2½p, brown, "

A sample of Matthew Knight's The Philatelic Messenger.

"What would you give me for the Connell stamp on original cover, *if I had one?*" At no time does he admit he got any offers. Like George Stewart a generation earlier, Knight lists stamp clients who could not be trusted.

With Volume 2 Number 1 (November 1897), Knight moved *The Messenger* to monthly publication, and judging from advertisements from many parts of the United States, Canada, and Germany, it was most successful. He also had regular correspondents from Halifax, Detroit, Massachusetts, and Montreal.

Knight ran into problems getting second class mail rates "to be granted us" for *The Messenger,* so there were delays in publication. Vol. 2 No. 5 came out April 1, 1898 with the statement, "*The Messenger* is not an ephemeral publication." He had bought his own press to ensure future issues.

In June 1898 Matthew Knight moved to Boiestown but continued his journal, stating in July 1898, "there are several philatelic papers published in Canada, each of which claims to be Canada's best. We make no comparison of the sort. We do not have to." He had the confidence of George Stewart.

Unfortunately, Knight could maintain neither his promises nor his enthusiasm. With Vol. 3 No. 2 (January 16, 1899), he announced the demise of *The Messenger,* and the transfer of his subscription list to the *Philatelic Advocate,* based in Berlin, Ontario.

Knight, however, was soon back on the scene. On March 15, 1899, he reappeared with what he called Vol. 4 Whole Number 17 of *The Philatelic*

Messenger and Monthly Advertiser. He wrote, "we have decided to continue publishing the paper on somewhat different lines. The paper will henceforth be devoted to advertisements almost exclusively." It remained an advertising feature until August 15, 1901 with Vol. 7 No. 8, Whole Number 44. An American Philatelic Research Library list indicated there were as many as 49 numbers, but there is no evidence, nor is there a farewell from Knight.

Like George Stewart, Matthew Richey Knight had other interests. He was a Methodist clergyman, but at no time does he mix religion and stamps in his philatelic publications. Hannah M. Lane has suggested that the title of *The Philatelic Messenger* "faintly echoed Knight's evangelical commitment."

Knight also wrote poetry, publishing *Poems of Ten Years* (Halifax, 1887), and he edited a journal, *Canada: A Monthly Journal of Religion, Patriotism, Science and Literature* (1891-1892) which W.G. MacFarlane calls "a literary monthly, that did considerable in fostering an interest in native talent and in establishing a national spirit." *Canada* published Charles G.D. Roberts and other local and national writers. Knight also ran a "Stamp Chat" column and several advertisements by stamp dealers in Canada.

The American Philatelic Research Library list of Canadian stamp publications includes *Collectors World* edited by a G.V. Veness in Fredericton in 1905, *The Maritime Hustler* edited by George H. Seaman in Moncton in 1928, *Northern Hobby Bulletin* edited by Leo Donovan in Saint Johns (sic) in 1938, and *The Boys' Herald* edited by Bowes and Perley in Saint John. The listing reports first publication in 1875 with Vol. 1 and concludes with Vol. 2 No. 6 in July 1876. Little information, however, is available on these.

Stamp collectors today must go beyond New Brunswick for their publications, but history shows the province had its share of first rate stamp papers for which credit goes to men like George Stewart and Matthew Knight. They were pioneers who took their hobby seriously, and their legacy is recorded in the major philatelic libraries around the world.

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All copies of *The Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette, The Stamp Argus, The Postman's Knock, The Stamp Collector's Chronicle, The Philatelic Messenger,* and *Canada: A Monthly Journal of Religion, Patriotism, Science and Literature* are part of the Dr. R.S. Langstroth Collection at the University of New Brunswick Archives.

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The author acknowledges the assistance of Mary Flagg and the staff of the University of New Brunswick Archives.

A resident of Oromocto, New Brunswick, Michael O. Nowlan is best known for his literature review column which appears regularly in Canadian Stamp News.

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JOHN CABOT'S VOYAGES AND THE DISCOVERY OF CANADA

by Frank Alusio

The following monograph reconstructs, in a succinct fashion, the story behind John Cabot's landing in North America, an event which marked the intellectual discovery of the land we now call Canada. Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) was a brave navigator and explorer who, like many of his illustrious contemporaries, was driven by a passion for knowledge and discovery. This year, the fifth centenary of that far-reaching event, is a most appropriate time to celebrate philatelically Cabot's achievements.



To commemorate John Cabot's first voyage, Canada and Italy released a joint stamp issue on 24 June 1997.

North America before Cabot

Before the arrival of John Cabot, North America had already its own inhabitants. Anthropological evidence tells us that man (homo erectus or great walker) had made his appearance in this area.

It is assumed that the first man stepped on Canadian soil around 20,000 BC, during the Ice Age. About this time, the sheet of ice covering much of North America had grown to its largest extent and the space between Asia and America, the Bering Strait, had become a land bridge. Hunters presumably originating from Mongolia, wandered across this land bridge in search of game and travelled slowly eastward and further away from Asia without being aware of it.

First inhabitants from Asia crossing the Bering Strait.



The descendants of the first arrivals could no longer return to Asia when, with the passing of centuries, the ice melted. Slowly they proceeded southerly, acclimatizing themselves to the new environment and populating the continent. All of Mongolian origin they were the ancestors of both Indians and Inuit. It was Christopher Columbus after landing in Central America in 1492, who gave them the name "Indians" to the natives he met in the new land because he thought he had reached India. During the course of centuries these peoples classified themselves according to their languages: among them the Algonkians, Athapaskan, and Iroquoian.



Christopher Columbus gave the name "Indians" to North American natives.

Around the year 8,000 BC another group, known as Eskimos, also came the same route and established themselves in the most northerly parts of the area. They include such names as Inuit, Inupiat, Yupic, and Alutit. The Arctic people of Canada and Greenland in general prefer the term "Inuit," while those of Alaska still generally favour the term "Eskimo." The Inuit are quite distinct from the Indian tribes and they form the second group of aboriginal population of Canada. Many of them have abandoned their nomadic hunting pursuits to move into northern towns and cities or to work in mines and oil fields. Others have formed co- operatives to market their handicraft, fish catches, and venture in tourism.

The Inuit and their handicraft.



No one in Europe was aware of the existence of these new lands until the middle of the ninth century AD, when a series of events accidentally revealed its presence.

At that time, the people of Ireland lived quietly off agriculture and fishing. Desirous of penetrating to other islands in the North Sea, the Irish Monks ventured to the Hebrides, the Orkney Islands, and up to the Shetland Islands. In 725 AD they had communities in Faeroe Islands, and in 874 an Irish colony in Iceland fled from invaders led by Norwegian leaders.

It is recorded that in 770 AD Vikings plundered Irish colonies in the Faeroe Islands and that in 800 they destroyed a monastery in the Hebrides. Evidently the Irish colonies, rather than submit to such onslaught by a cruel and relentless enemy, preferred exile and the adventure of the unknown.



The Scandinavian annals talk about the existence of some sort of a Christian cult in North America and the discovery there of various religious objects. It is evident that Irish colonies arrived in North America and established themselves as far as Labrador around the year 1000 AD. Such colonies with time were weakened and were absorbed by Micmac Indian tribes before becoming extinct.

The remnants of colonies of Irish monks were absorbed by the Micmac Indians.

The great migration of Norsemen began in 930. These were the Vikings who pressed forward from Norway to Iceland and Greenland then onward to Labrador. Around the year 1000 Leif Eriksson, son of Eric the Red, with a ship and crew of 35 men sailed west and came to the glaciers of Baffin Island (Helluland). He turned south and followed the forest coast of Labrador (Markland) until he came to the tip of Newfoundland (Vinland) where he spent the winter.

Evidence of the Viking presence in Newfoundland has been discovered at L'Anse aux Meadows on the grassy knólls of the Great North peninsula, the first cultural discovery in the world to receive recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After the year 1000, as a result of plague, famine, negligence, and perhaps other factors, the east coast of North America returned to the status of an unknown land to Europeans.



Around the year 1000 Leif Eriksson reached Newfoundland (Vinland).

In Search of New Lands

Towards the end of the fifteenth century the American continent remained unknown to the rest of the world. Not even Christopher Columbus in 1492 or John Cabot in 1497 realized that they both unknowingly had discovered a new continent — America. They thought had found Cathay (China) and Cipango (Japan).

A Vatican postal card shows a world map drawn by Niccolo Germanico, circa 1480.



In the fifteenth century Europeans began again their search for new worlds with a vast and much more precise idea, that of navigating from east to west in search of Asia, the land of spices. It was one thing to discover Canada from Greenland, it was another to plan, organize, and undertake an expedition from Bristol, England. It was no longer a question of navigating the seas or occupying an archipelago and then venturing from island to island, like many people had done in the past including the Greeks before Christ, the Romans at the time of Christ, the Irish in the eighth century and the Vikings in the tenth century.



Exploration ventures were undertaken by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

The undertakings of the European navigators and explorers of the fifteenth century, though aided by more sophisticated nautical instruments (the compass and the astrolabe, for example) and a better knowledge of geographical factors (the wind rose, the idea that the world was spherical in shape, the determination of latitude and longitude) were daring and arduous, to say the least, involving nothing less that the circumnavigation of the hemisphere in the search of Asia.

One of the sophisticated nautical instruments of the fifteenth century: the wind rose.



John Cabot the Discoverer

As a first step in relating the story of John Cabot's great voyages and in examining the documents of his undertakings that have been handed down to us, it is necessary, or at least useful, to consider what would have inspired and conditioned his actions. Among the factors that could be examined are biographical questions, the political situation in which he found himself, and the social conditions of his time.



A plate proof of the Newfoundland 2¢ stamp of 1897 portraying Cabot's son Sebastian, and issued to mark the 400th anniversary of Cabot's landfall.

Where was John Cabot born? It is clear that he was not a native of Venice because on 28 March 1476 he received the privilege of citizenship of that city. The City of Genoa (birthplace of Columbus) has not recorded any name like Caboto.

However, there was a very active presence of a Caboto family in Gaeta (a town between Rome and Naples) from 1241 to 1431. An investigation has not provided a definitive answer as to how and why the Caboto family disappeared from the documents in Gaeta after 1431.



A postal cancellation showing the Caboto family crest, as recorded on the Town of Gaeta.

Some time about 1470 John Cabot married a Venetian young lady by the name of Mattea Bragadin. In short time they had three children, Ludovico, Sebastiano, and Sante, in that order.



Venice as it was in Cabot's time.

Cabot's life in the 1470s and 1480s centered on seafaring activities and voyages to the Orient. Among the numerous distant and interesting travels were journeys to the port of Haifa and Mecca, the holy city of South Arabia and a world market centre for spices.

It is obvious that John Cabot had a passion for the sea and a desire for adventure and voyages. It is sufficient to mention that his name is associated with such places as Venice, Seville, Lisbon, London and Bristol. He would have not visited them if he had not had a project of large dimensions and great aspirations.

It will come as a surprise to many to learn that John Cabot left Venice for Spain. Sources mention that he lived in Spain between 1490 and 1493. His presence, moreover, is not revealed elsewhere. Furthermore, it is quite possible that he, before asking for help from the King of England, sought assistance from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain.



Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain.

Cabot probably arrived in Valencia in 1490 on behalf of an Italian company, remaining there until 1493. He would have in Spain when Columbus returned from his first voyage and probably made the effort to meet him during his triumphal procession via Valencia to Barcelona.

John Cabot and his family were in England by 1494, first in London for a short while and then in Bristol. At the time the Bristol harbour was one of the most important in England.

Voyages were much discussed at the Royal Court. Given that Columbus had, in 1484, presented a project to King John II of Portugal showing how he would reach east by navigating westward and that he would persist with his argument after his return from his voyage in 1493, it is easy to imagine the proliferation of projects and attempts at seafaring discoveries. It was a period of discoveries that were the subject of all conversations.

Left: The Arms of the City of London. Right: Harbour of Bristol.







King Henry VII of England.

Needless to say King Henry VII of England in these years was following with interest the development of exploration. In 1495 he travelled from London to Bristol to conduct an investigation. He consulted with the merchants, enabling him to understand the ideas of John Cabot. For years Cabot had tried to sell his idea about his view of the map of the world and had acquired a reputation for perseverance and uprightness. The seamen and the merchants of Bristol were coming under his spell and, after many efforts, his dream became a reality with the 1497 voyage.

Proud of having obtained royal privilege giving him exclusive rights to navigate north and west in search for new lands, John Cabot prepared himself for the grand voyage. Unfortunately, he had to bear the costs of the voyage as the king did not provide for any financial support. However, using his own savings and with promises of support from merchants and friends, John Cabot fitted out his small ship.

During the end of 1496 and the early part 1497 Cabot and the merchants of Bristol were hard at work finding and equipping a suitable vessel for the expedition. The ship they chose was the *Matthew* (named after his wife Mattea) which had been built of solid oak in the local shipyards. The ship was a small two-mast caravel weighing only 50 tons.



The Matthew, *on a plate proof of the 10¢ Newfoundland commemorative stamp of 1897, issued on the 400th anniversary of Cabot's landfall.*



Right: John Cabot, on a commemorative cancel.

The *Matthew* was a humble vessel for the great achievement she was about to complete, hardly enough to "conquer, occupy or possess" the land they headed for. Unfortunately, there is no log book from the ship, no records or memoirs from Cabot himself, but only correspondence from after the *Matthew's* return to England on 6 August 1497.

On Tuesday, 2 May 1497, fourteen months after receiving the letters patent, Cabot set sail from Bristol with a crew of 18 men. A beautiful painting by Ernest Board (1877-1934) on display in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery



reconstructs the departure scene. Surrounded by merchants and friends, the bishop and clergy, Cabot directs himself towards the *Matthew* on which the English and Venetian flags flutter in the breeze. After 52 days of sailing, the *Matthew's* crew was able to sight an unknown headland. It was Saturday, 24 June 1497, St. John the Baptist Day.

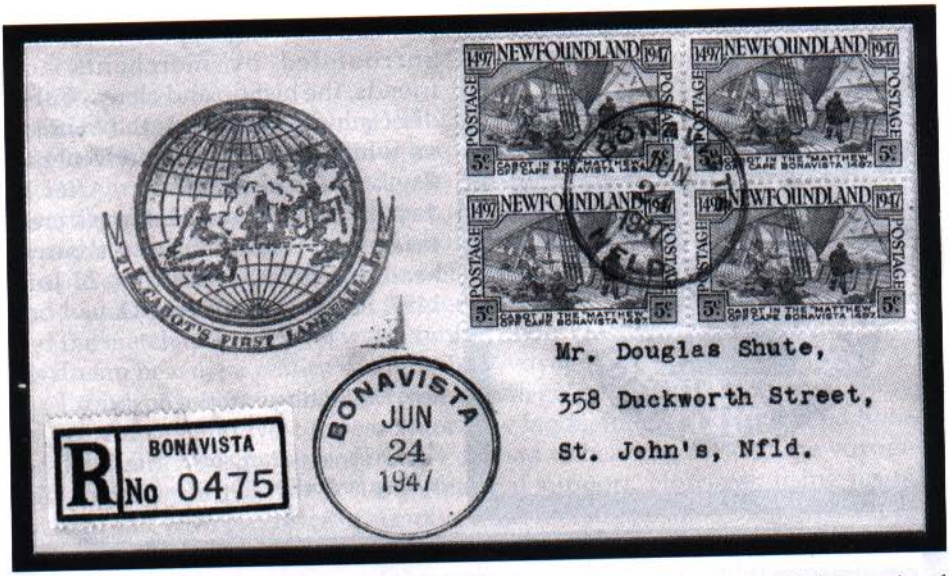
Left: The Matthew *leaving Bristol.*

Below: The departure scene, with Cabot bidding farewell to King Henry VII.



After landing on the same day his first action was to hoist the two flags of England and Venice, a sign of glory and of control. He noticed some signs indicating that the land was inhabited but saw no human beings (the Beothuks, a family of the Algonkian Indians, were present in the area). He scouted the coast for about a month and one half and gathered some souvenirs that would be testimony of the discovery. He then decided to begin the return voyage because his provisions were being depleted and the coast, instead of being delineated westerly, led too far south.

Historical sources emphasize Cabot's enthusiasm and his haste after landing



Newfoundland registered cover, first day cancelled at Bonavista, and franked with four copies of the 5¢ Cabot issue (the last stamp issued by Newfoundland), to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Cabot's landfall. The cover arrived in St. John's on 26 June 1947.

in Bristol in going directly to London to give the king the good news. The king, however, was not too generous; Cabot was allowed an annual pension of 20 pounds. After all the expenses he had incurred, the danger he had faced, and the risks he had taken, Cabot had expected more. Nevertheless, the king, taken by Cabot's enthusiasm, began to promise another voyage in the next season. Cabot was no longer the "poor alien" but the "Great Admiral."



Left: The Beothuks. Middle: The Venetian flag. Right: Westminster.

Everyone wanted to sail with "The Admiral" and to become rich, to be counts, or to be named governors of the islands. It was euphoric. Everyone was sure of Cabot's success: he had shown them on a world map exactly where he had been, where he would be going, and where he would find the passage to reach Cipango. After all, the crew of his first voyage, the merchants who helped

him to equip the *Matthew*, and those who had seen the new lands themselves, all trusted the Venetian navigator who had come back safely after crossing without any difficulties.

With letters patent from the king dated 3 February 1498, early in May, John Cabot was again at sea with 5 vessels taking 300 men including his sons Sebastian and Sancto. In the early stage of the voyage, one of the ships had to take shelter in Ireland because of a heavy storm. As that was the ship carrying Brother Buil, the only religious man of the expedition, it was not a good omen. John Cabot, however, continued in his venture with a reduced fleet of 4 ships.

He sailed northwest and, after a month, reached Greenland. He followed the coast until he reached the 65th parallel and from there, because of the presence of icebergs, and the discontentment of the crew, veered to the south. He continued to follow the Greenland coast to Cape Farewell. The presence of ice and strong currents forced him to come to rest on the coast of Labrador.

He then followed the coast of Newfoundland, the Nova Scotia seaboard and continued down to the coast of New Jersey. Not finding a passage to reach the famous Cipango, and sad and disillusioned, he gave the signal to return, probably after stopping and scouting the area for a few days. This account comes from Sebastian, his son, who at the time was around 24 years of age.



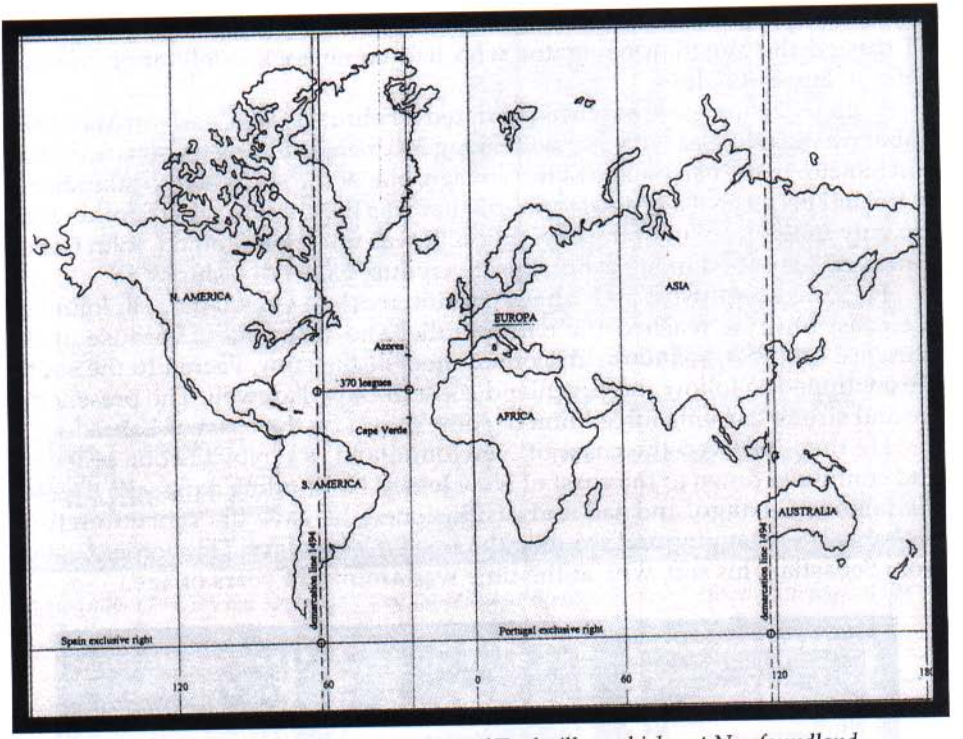
Left: Cape Bonavista. Middle and Right: Cape Race and Trinity Island, Newfoundland.

In London, where expectations ran high, the sight of animal furs on the return ships instead of spices caused dismay. John Cabot was not among those who returned and from that moment onward a total silence descends on his venture. It can be said that after the second voyage his name disappeared from history. In fact, even the pension that the king had established and that was paid twice a year ceased. The last payment to his wife Mattea was made on 25 March 1499.

The Aftermath of Cabot's Voyages

The news of Cabot's voyages on behalf of England soon reached Portugal and Spain. King Emmanuel of Portugal, fearing that the presence of England in a territory that belonged to Portugal through the Treaty of Tordesillas. This had been accorded by a papal bull on 7 June 1494, which split the world between Portugal and Spain. King Emmanuel called for an expedition to discover or rediscover the North Atlantic islands.

In 1501 a Portuguese leader, Gaspar Corte Real, explored the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland. On this expedition he seized about 50 Indians



The world according to the Treaty of Tordesillas, which put Newfoundland and Brazil in Portugal's exclusive domain.

and noted that one of them had in his possession a broken Italian-made sword, and that one of the Indian boys was wearing Venetian-made earrings. This information is contained in a document written on 19 October 1501 by Pietro Pasqualigo, the ambassador of Venice to Portugal, that he addressed to his brothers at home in Venice.



The Cabot Trail, Nova Scotia.

As well as being a contemporary document, one that is also neutral and impartial given its character as a personal missive written to his own brothers, this letter gives a true description of the Newfoundland coast, confirms that the last known voyage was that of John Cabot, and lastly proves the authenticity of the story about the broken sword and the silver earrings.

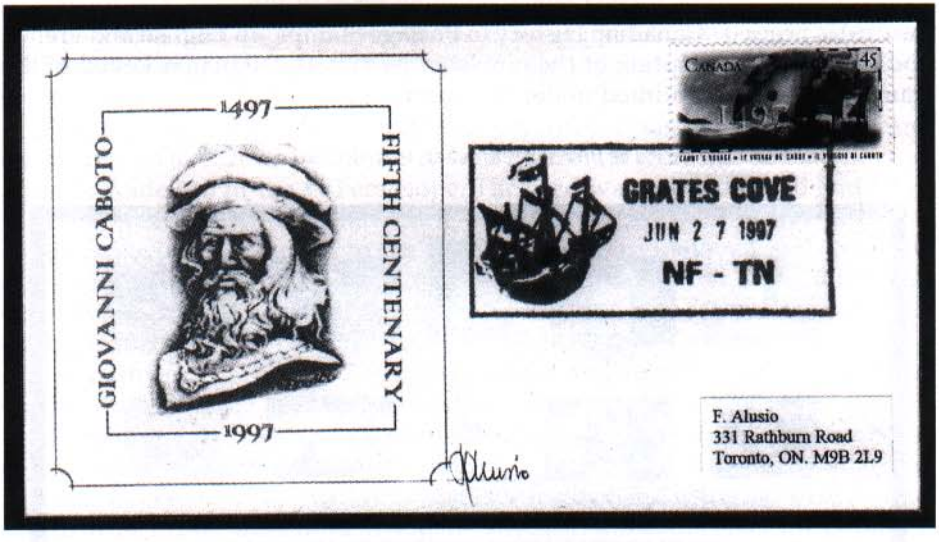
Were these items evidence of some terrible misfortune? Were they tacit testimony of John Cabot and his youngest son Sancto having come to shore and dying there? Were they subdued by the Indians or were their bodies carried to shore by the same sea that had swallowed them?



Sebastian Cabot.

To give more value to what was said, we can add other testimony. At Grates Cove, a small inlet at Grates Point, Newfoundland, a carved inscription existed on the beach. The rock with the inscription was described in 1882 by William Epps Cormack. Notwithstanding the length of time that had elapsed and the salty air, the inscription was still legible and showed the words "Jo... Caboto... Sancius... Sain... Maria." It is not possible to know if the inscription was genuine or not. Prior to 1882 no one knew of the existence of this rock. Moreover, Reinel's map, dated 1502, the only map that suggests the routes of the 1498 voyage and that includes Grates Cove, was only discovered in 1844. And no one has tried to reconstruct the 1498 voyage in a way that assumes Cabot's ship sank near Grates Cove. Unfortunately, in the 1960s persons posing as historians from Memorial University at St. John's removed the rock and its current whereabouts remains unknown. Each year the local residents still celebrate the Cabot Rock Festival.

Grates Cove, the place where Cabot is assumed to have been shipwrecked. A special cancellation was applied by the local postmaster on the visit of the reconstructed ship Matthew *on 27 June 1997. Only covers five exist.*



Widely recognized as an authority on thématic philately, Frank Alusio is currently the Canadian delegate to the Thematic Commission of the FIP. His collections have won awards at all levels. Recently he has qualified as an international level judge. He enjoys spending more time on philately since his retirement from the Airports Group of Transport Canada. He recently published a monograph on John Cabot, entitled Giovanni Caboto: A Passion for Discovery.

CANADIAN SOUVENIR CARDS 1959 — 1972

by Jerome C. Jarnick and Andrew Chung

Early in 1959, William Hamilton, the Postmaster General, approved a Canadian postage stamp souvenir card, bringing into existence a concept which had originated within the Postage Stamp Division some months earlier. The Division expected the card to be a popular souvenir with tourists. A total of 50,000 of the 222mm by 95mm cards, with accompanying #10 envelopes were printed by the Queen's Printer and delivered to the Post Office Department. The card contained nine stamps, eight 5¢ commemoratives, selected from the issues of 1957 through 1959 and the 10¢ Eskimo in Kayak issue of 1955. The face value of these stamps totaled 50¢, the selling price of the card. The reverse of the card is headed "Canadian History in Postage Stamps" in English and French and contains a description of the nine stamps in both languages keyed to the stamp by a numeral printed under the stamp.

The first souvenir card, issued 1959.



Empirical studies showed that post office employees could affix the stamps to the card at a rate of 30 per hour. Using this labour rate, it was calculated that the cards cost the Department 7.2¢ each, including the cost of printing. The first lot of 500 cards was dispatched to the Postmaster at Niagara Falls on 20th May

1959 with additional distributions being made to depots as fast as the cards could be produced. Supplies actually lagged demand until August 1959, when the Postage Stamp Division could begin stockpiling the cards. The card proved to meet the expectations of the post office officials and were continued annually in basically the same form for the next 13 years.

Following the success of the first card, 100,000 cards were ordered for the following year. The designation "Series 2" was added to the title and this series designation continued on all of these cards until the final one, Series 14 was issued in 1972. The second card contained ten 5¢ commemorative stamps issued in 1958 and 1959, with four stamps being repeated from the first card. The Post Office Department also requested that the phrase "(over)/(verso)" be printed at the bottom corners of the card and this was done.

The Series 3 card, issued in 1961, again contains ten 5¢ commemorative stamps, four stamps previously appearing on the 1960 card. Here the printing order was for 190,000 cards. This third card exists both with and without the "(over)/(verso)" imprint in the corners.

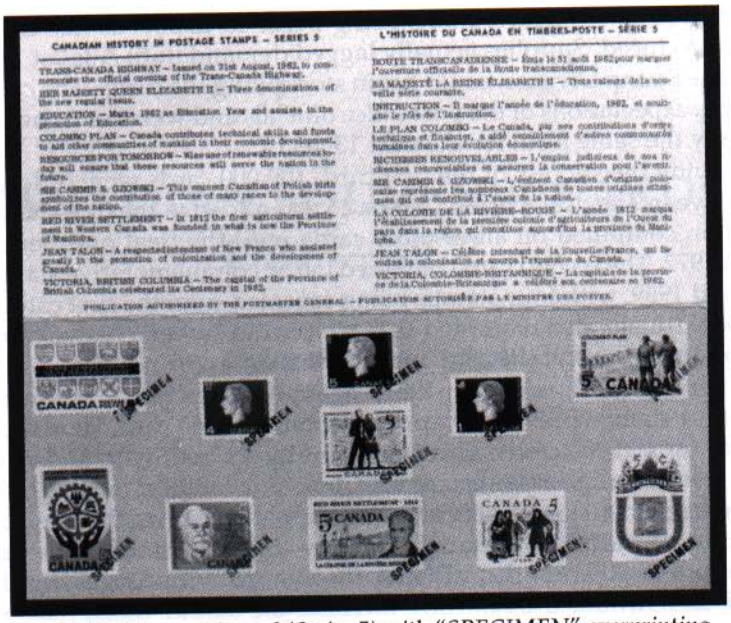
About this time, stamp collectors were expressing strong dissatisfaction with the practice of pasting the stamps directly to the card. The Postage Stamp Division took a position that affixing the stamps with hinges would not be practical, as it would dramatically increase the labour costs, make auditing difficult because of the possibility of the stamps falling off, and readily permit the stamps to be used as postage. This decision to continue pasting the stamps to the card held until the 11th card was issued in 1969.

The fourth card, issued in 1962 in a printing of 150,000 cards, again contained ten 5¢ commemoratives, six of them making their debut on a souvenir card for the first time.

The 1963 card, Series 5, is notable for several reasons. The size of the card was increased to 222mm by 190mm, with a horizontal score line so that the card could be folded to fit the #10 envelope. The card was printed in red and blue, with the Queen's Printer contracting the printing to Metro Litho, Inc. The numbers keying the stamps to the descriptions were removed and the front panel served as a title. The envelope was redesigned to compliment the title page. Eleven stamps are mounted on the card, which has a light blue coloured background. Eight stamps are commemoratives, the 1¢, 4¢ and 5¢ denominations of the Cameo issue make up the remaining 50¢ face value. As in the previous year, the Post Office ordered a printing of 150,000 cards.

The sale of the cards was proving to be profitable and in order to publicize their availability, 2,000 cards were withdrawn from stock, the stamps affixed to the cards overprinted "SPECIMEN" in black ink by hand using a rubber stamp, and distributed by the Public Relations Division to Postmasters for publicity purposes. In most cases these promotional cards were displayed on bulletin boards or posted next to a clerk's wicket so that they could be seen by the public.

The 1964, 1965, and 1966 cards, designated as Series 6, 7, and 8 respectively, follow the design of the 1963 card with the year date added to the face. The Queen's Printer produced 100,000 cards for each of these three years. The stamps on the 1964 card are affixed to a light blue coloured background, with text in blue. The 1965 card uses a light pink background, with printing in red. The



The 1963 souvenir card (Series 5) with "SPECIMEN" overprinting.

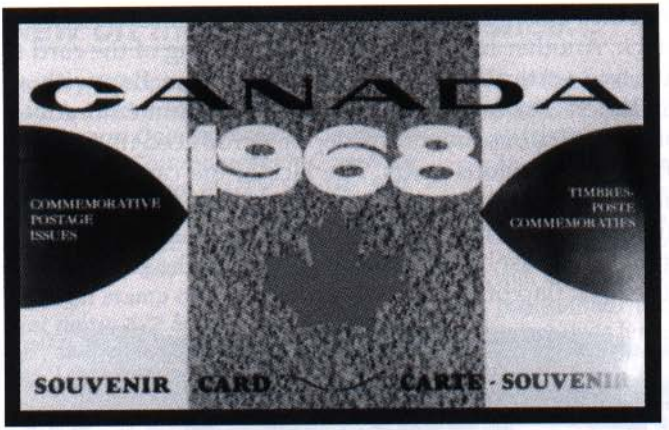
1966 card has a black background and text, with the cover being printed in turquoise blue and black.

Another innovation, starting with the 1964 card, is an advertisement stating that cards for the three previous years are available from the Philatelic Service, Ottawa, printed on the back panel of the card.

The ninth card, manufactured for the Centennial Year of 1967, measures 220mm by 280mm, with two horizontal folds forming a triptych, fitting the #10 envelope. It is printed in bright blue and red and contains the 14 stamps of the Floral Emblem set issued from 1964 to 1966, giving a face value of 70¢ for the card. For the first time two colors were used to print the envelope for this card, it too being printed in blue and red. An original printing order of 200,000 cards was placed in May 1966 with a second printing of 100,000 envelopes ordered in January 1967. This made total printing of 300,000 for this card, the highest printing order of any of the souvenir cards. The receiving post office official noted that the second printing was on a somewhat lighter stock than that used in the original.

For the 1968 souvenir card, Series 10, the Postage Stamp Division sought a card different in size and construction from the previous issues. The size of the card would be 408mm by 128mm, folded vertically at the centre. Printed in full colour on high gloss lithograph paper, instead of the Mayfair stock used on previous cards, it would bear 12 stamps and sell for 60¢. A two colour envelope, in blue and red, would be manufactured to fit the folded card.

The back of the card shows, in full colour, current stamps then available from the Philatelic Service, Ottawa and a statement that they, along with Souvenir Card Series 9, can be ordered from the Philatelic Service. The Postage Stamp Division sought a tender from an outside contractor, Man-Mark Projects Limited of Toronto for this card. However, when the order was placed they returned to the previous supplier, The Queen's Printer for a production run of 150,000, with



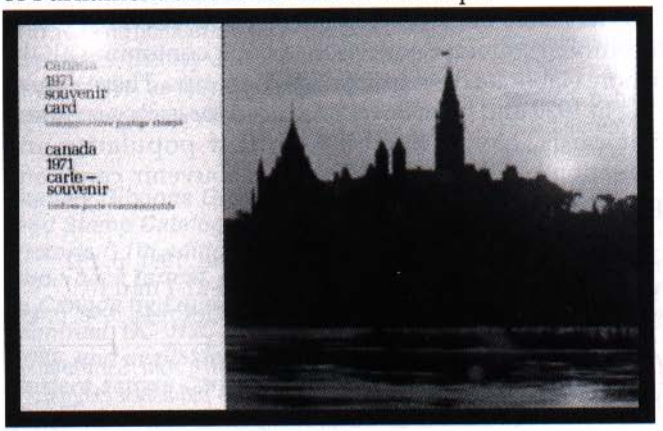
The cover of the 1968 card, Series 10.

the first shipment of cards being delivered to the post office in March, 1968.

The pattern set by the 1968 card was followed for Series 11, 12, and 13 issued in 1969, 1970, and 1971. But starting with the 1969 card, the Post Office Department broke a tradition established with the first card. The stamps were not stuck down, but provided in a polyethylene bag so that they could be mounted with hinges.

The Post Office Department had been profiting from the sale of these cards for an amount of $45,000 to $55,000 since their introduction. The 1969 card contained stamps with a face value of 65¢. It was felt that there would be little resistance to a $1.00 price for the card, a 35¢ premium over face, since this was an established pricing practice of the United Nations and Great Britain. Further, eliminating the arduous, time-consuming task of precisely affixing stamps to the cards would also eliminate a relatively high labour cost and permitted a projection of a net profit of $100,000 on the 150,000 of the 1969 cards ordered from the Queen's Printer. The accompanying envelope was printed in purple with a red Maple Leaf and gold Coat of Arms.

The quantity of cards printed for the 1970 card was 125,000. That card contained 14 commemorative stamps issued in 1969. Only 70,000 of the 1971 cards were printed. This card showed a full colour photograph of the Houses of Parliament on the cover and envelope.



The Houses of Parliament on the cover of the 1971 card, Series 13.

The envelope was printed on a Georgian Offset Matte stock, the card itself being printed on Glosskote stock. Another innovation was lengthening of the card to 478mm by 128mm, with two vertically folds providing a 70mm flap with an embossed Maple Leaf at the left. The card contained eleven 6¢ commemoratives.

Series 14, the last of this series of souvenir cards, was produced in 1972 and differed dramatically from the previous cards. The face of the card measured 233mm by 161mm, with a black background surrounded by a printed wood like frame. The card contained 18 commemorative stamps issued in 1971. This card was designed to stand as an easel or to be hung on a wall. The stamps were described in detail on the back flap of the card.



The easel format of the last card, issued in 1972 (Series 14).

With the 1972 version the series of cards was phased out. The Post Office Department turned to the annual souvenir collection, a book containing all the year's stamp issues with more elaborate descriptions of the stamps. These annual collections came into being in 1972 and have been produced for each year since. The forerunner souvenir cards, having established their popularity and profitability, led to the creation of thematic collections, souvenir cards and souvenir booklets for specific stamp issues.

References

Le catalogue des timbres du Canada, 1992. Montreal: Editions Darnell, Inc., 1991, p. 232.
National Archives of Canada, RG3 All Acc 86-87-396, Box 18, Files 8-6-21-1 thru 10.
Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, 1997. Toronto: Unitrade Press, 1996, p. 437.

Jerome Jarnick of Troy, Michigan is secretary of the British North America Philatelic Society. Andrew Chung of Hamilton, Ontario has published extensively on modern Canadian stamp issues and postal history.

New on the Philatelic Bookshelf...

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Part 1, 1998 edition. Vol. 1: Great Britain and Commonwealth Countries A-I; Vol. 2: Commonwealth Countries J-Z. Case bound, 8 1/2 x 12 size, 872 and 832 pp. Distributed in Canada by Lighthouse, 225 Duke, Montreal, QC H3C 2M2; 1-800-363-7082, and available through stamp dealers across Canada. List price: $72.50 for each volume.

Just off the press, this is the 100th edition of this catalogue, which is popular with both collectors and dealers. Many use this catalogue as their basic pricing guide, and there have been some revisions from the previous edition, but few are dramatic. The editors note that the market has become firmer, with fewer of the price reductions found in the last edition. There appears to be a rising market for the early twentieth century, and for used stamps, with increases in the nineteenth century selective.

Areas with a number of increases include Bermuda to 1952, Australian errors, Cook Islands, and Newfoundland. The hot area is, of course, Hong Kong, with numerous substantial price increases. Expert collectors have contributed their knowledge to revisions of the listings. This is notable particularly with the Australian States. The numbering of New Zealand issues between 1915 and 1929 has been revised to a more logical system.

Because of the decision of Scott to list the entire world alphabetically, Commonwealth collectors are likely to turn to Stanley Gibbons in increasing numbers to lower the cost of their catalogues. Stanley Gibbons seem to be fully aware of this, as they are now marketing this catalogue aggressively in the United States.

— Steve Thorning

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialized Stamp Catalogue: Vol. 1, Queen Victoria, 11th edition. High-quality paperback format, 464 pp. Distributed in Canada by Lighthouse, 225 Duke, Montreal, QC H3C 2M2; 1-800-363-7082, and available through stamp dealers across Canada. List price: $56.85.

It is five years since the last edition of this important catalogue, which is the bible for specialists in nineteenth century Great Britain. This new edition expands the coverage of the 1880s era. There is a new section by W.A. Wiseman on the work of the 1884 Stamp Committee, and the various issues connected with it. There is also a reorganization of the popular 1887 Jubilee issue. Important revisions include further notes and clarifications of the plates for the 1d black and red stamps. It has been necessary to revise the prices since the last edition, particularly for specialized material such as essays, proofs, and constant varieties, which are enjoying a generally rising market. As well as regular issues, the catalogue covers in detail the Mulready envelopes, "Specimen" and "Cancelled" overprints, protective overprints and underprints, officials, postal fiscals, and telegraph stamps. This is the basic reference work for collectors of nineteenth century Great Britain.

— Steve Thorning

Canadian Definitive Series. Author: D. Robin Harris. Vol.1: Caricature & Landscape, 1972-78. Vol. 2: Environmental, 1977-87. Vol. 3: Artifacts & Parliament, 1982-89. Vol. 4: Wildlife & Architecture, 1987-1996. Vol. 5: Fruit & Flag, 1989-1996. Published by Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Box 1870, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S2. Prices: Vol. 1: $14.95. Vol. 2: $18.95. Vol. 3: $16.95. Vol. 4: $17.95. Vol. 5: $19.95. Available as a set for $69.95 in coil binding or three-hole punched. Add $3 shipping; $6 to U.S.

This year we are blessed with a major detailed publication on modern definitives. Five different highly specialized booklets deal with the Caricature and Landscapes, the Environment Issue, the Artifacts and Parliament series, the Wildlife and Architecture, and then finally the Fruit and Flag series. It is obvious that modern programming and formatting have made this an outstanding publication. Scanned pictures are excellent and the idea of scanning the accurate perforations is a major plus, finally getting away from such useless perforation gauges

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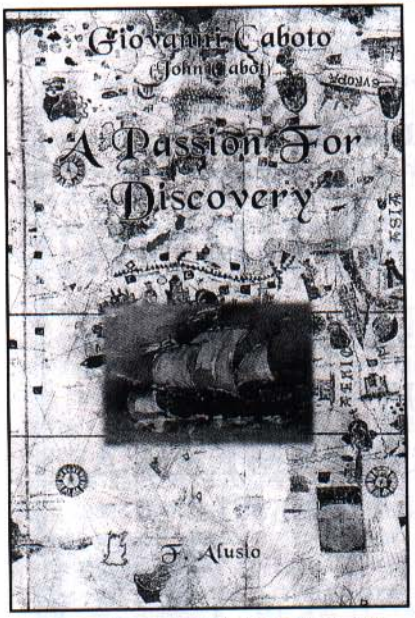
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as the Kiusalas.

Mr. D. Robin Harris must have done much research to put all this detailed information into these publications. Very useful background information is given for papers, perforations, tagging, and plate varieties. If further updates are being planned, other varieties that are known to exist will undoubtedly find their way into this publication. For example, the 43¢ Flag is known with the red doubled. The 15¢ Sheep comes with an extensive Repellex error where the bottom of the sheet is almost unreadable. And there is the 50¢ Prairie with the broken antenna on the right roof. There some interesting coil papers that may be useful to list. In the meantime, these five publications certainly will make a very welcome addition to any library.

—Hans Reiche



Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot): A Passion for Discovery. Author: F. Alusio. Softcover; 89 pages. Illustrated in colour. Available from the author at 331 Rathburn Rd., Toronto, ON M9B 2L9 for $15 plus $2 shipping.

Frank Alusio has compiled this interesting monograph to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Cabot's landing in Newfoundland. Although he is a towering figure in the earliest history of Canada and Newfoundland, John Cabot is a very shadowy and mysterious character. Very little is known about him or his life. Mr. Alusio has attempted to flesh him out, so far as it is possible, from the scant and sometimes obscure documentary sources.

Mr. Alusio begins the story by putting Cabot in the context of earlier arrivals in North America, the Vikings and Irish, and notes the interaction between European adventurers and the native Indians. He follows Cabot from Italy through Spain to England, and then combs the available evidence about Cabot's two voyages to North America.

Given the paucity of sources, Mr. Alusio must rely on conjecture and reasonable assumptions to explain parts of Cabot's life. More than half the book is devoted to translations of rare documents, a chronology, and a bibliography. These translations will be useful to students of Canadian history.

Mr. Alusio's achievements as a thematic philatelist are evident in the organization of the book and in the illustrations, which rely heavily on stamps. Other thematic collectors can learn much from this book, and realize that their own specialty might lead to a monograph with a non-philatelic appeal. Conversely, the book readily shows the value of philatelic items as educational tools.

— Steve Thorning

Briefly Noted:

Our editorial offices contain a stack of new releases from Stanley Gibbons. *Collect British Stamps* is the most inexpensive of the Stanley Gibbons catalogues, and provides a basic listing of all British stamp issues, including the regionals. It is illustrated in full colour. *Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps* provides a thorough listing in some 250 pages of the regional issues, with the emphasis on the issues of the independent postal administrations of Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey. It is a perfect-bound paperback, and lists at $29.50.

The second edition of *Collect Fungi on Stamps* will be good news to collectors of this popular thematic. This 96-page booklet supersedes the 1991 edition, and lists over 1,400 stamp issues depicting some 575 species. The listing and referencing is similar

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to other Stanley Gibbons thematic catalogues.

The fifth edition of Part 8 of the international catalogue (Italy & Switzerland) has appeared. Prices are updated from the previous edition of four years ago, and there has been an extensive revision of the listings for Switzerland between 1903 and 1926.

Stanley Gibbons products are distributed in Canada by Lighthouse Publications, 225 Duke, Montreal, QC H3C 2M2; 1-800-363-7082. Further information is available from them.

James Bendon Ltd., the specialist philatelic publisher, is distributing two new titles. *La "Posta Europea"* by Luca D. Biolato is the culmination of 25 years of research on the Posta Europea system of Egypt. Written in Italian and well illustrated, this 1,066-page volume has been printed in a limited edition of 150 copies. It sells for $295 US plus $2 shipping. *The Work of Jean de Sperati* is a reprint of the 1956 edition. The book records the known examples of the work of the world's best known stamp forger, and includes Sperati's autobiography and accounts of the efforts of the French courts and the British Philatelic Association to suppress his career. The 384-page hardbound book sells for $122 US postpaid. Both titles are available from James Bendon Ltd., Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus.

Spurious Stamps: A History of U.S. Postal Counterfeits by H.K. Petschel was published this past summer by the American Philatelic Society. This 274-page hardcover traces the history of fraudulent postal items beginning with the first criminal case in 1895, and ending with cases from the 1970s. Counterfeits are designed to fool postal authorities, not collectors, and the author believes that efforts to deprive the post office of revenue continue to be a major, and largely unreported, criminal activity. Frauds have involved not only stamps but postal cards, postage meters, and savings stamps. The book is $32 US postpaid to APS members; $40 to nonmembers, and is available from the APS at Box 8000, State College, PA 16803-8000; phone (814) 237-3803; fax (814) 237-6128.

The Philatelic Almanac by George Saqqal is a handy reference work for stamp collectors and postal historians. Included are addresses for the all the world's stamp issuing entities, including postal, fax, and Internet addresses for those who wish to order new issues. There are also addresses for duck stamp offices, various political and economic organizations, specialist societies, and philatelic publications. Other sections include philatelic terms explained, commonly used abbreviations, foreign alphabets, monetary units, and a section translating inscriptions commonly found on stamps. There is also an article on the preservation of stamps and covers. The 248-page book is available in spiral bound or three-hole punched versions, and sells for $59.95 US postpaid from the author at Box 150793, Brooklyn, NY 11215-0793.

Military specialists will be interested in *The C.E.F. Roll of Honour,* compiled and edited by Edward H. Wigney. This 880-page book lists the 67,000 Canadians who served and died in World War I in Canadian units, or with those in British, Australian, New Zealand, South African and American forces. The book costs $155.15 including shipping and GST, and is available from Eugene G. Ursual, Box 6096, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6; phone (613) 521-9691; fax (613) 523-3347.

The long awaited new edition of *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* is now at the printers. The cost and actual release date of the 550-page catalogue will be announced shortly, and will likely be about December 1. Further details will appear in this journal.

The last book in our pile of new releases is William Topping's *Yukon Airways and Exploration Company Limited: A Pioneer Airmail Company.* This is a specialized study of one of the airlines that issued semi-official airmail stamps in the late 1920s. There is much detailed information on the stamps, listings of the flights, and information on the various covers, cancellations and markings on both philatelic and commercial mail. Illustrations are provided for many covers and stamp varieties. Obviously, the book will appeal mainly to collectors of Canadian aerophilately. However, business historians also will be fascinated with the details of the operation of this short-lived (1927-1929) pioneering transportation company. Copies and further information are available from the author at 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC V6P 5K2.

New from Canada Post / Nouveautés de Postes Canada

FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE ENVELOPE / ENVELOPPE-SOUVENIR



Canada Post issued a souvenir envelope to coincide with the Festival of the Future exposition at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto between August 15 and September 1. The covers were franked with a 45¢ Information Technology stamp. The quantity produced was 5,000. It is available from the National Philatelic Centre in Antigonish.

La Société canadienne des postes a annoncé l'émission que des enveloppes-souvenirs spéciales marqueront le *Festival of the Future*. Cet événement coïcidera avec la tenue, du 15 août au 1er septembre, de l'Exposition nationale canadienne, à Toronto. Seulement 5000 enve-loppes seront mises en vente. On pourra se procurer les enveloppes-souvenirs par commande postale auprès du Centre national de Philatélie, à Antigonish.

CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC / L'ANNÉE CANADIENNE DE L'ASIE-PACIFIQUE



Specifications:

Date of Issue:	25 August 1997
Last Day of Sale:	24 August 1998
Denomination:	45¢
Printer:	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Quantity:	7,000,000
Dimensions:	48 mm x 30 mm (horizontal)
Perforation:	13+
Paper:	Coated Papers
Gum:	P.V.A.
Printing Process:	five-colour lithography
Pane Layout:	sheetlet of 20 stamps
Tagging:	general tagged, four sides
Design:	Amy Ho
First Day:	Ottawa, ON

Spécifications techniques :

Date d'émission :	25 août 1997
Dernier jour de vente :	24 août 1998
Valeur :	45 $
Imprimession :	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Tirage :	7 000 000
Format :	48 mm x 30 mm (horizontal)
Dentelure :	13+
Papier :	Cated Papers
Gomme :	A.P.V.
Procédé d'impression	lithographie (cinq couleurs)
Présentation de feuillets :	feuillet de 20 timbres
Marquage :	procédé général, sur les quatre côtés
Design :	Amy Ho
Premier jour :	Ottawa, ON

POSTAGE-PAID POSTCARDS

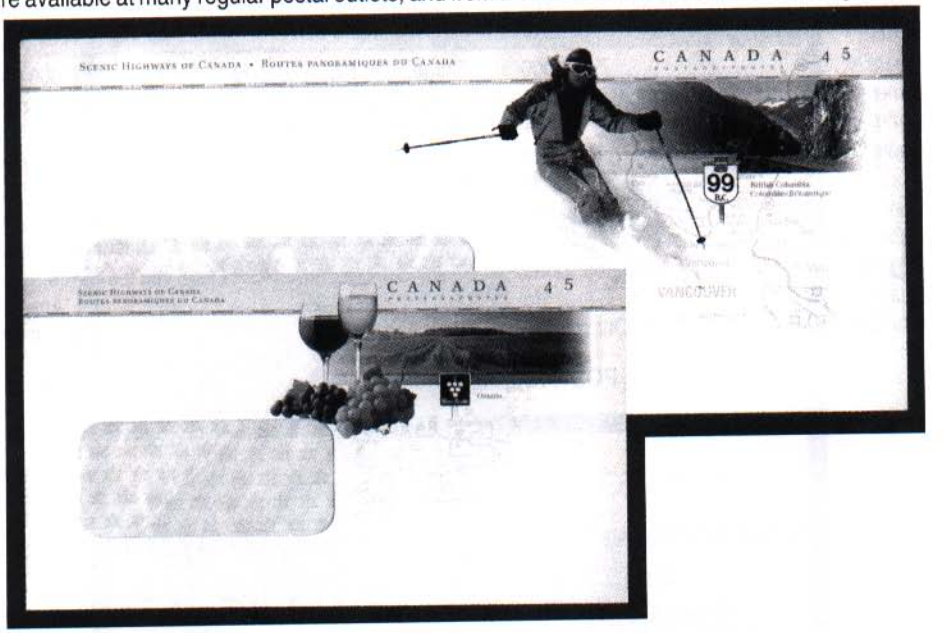


Canada Post now has available postage-paid postcards featuring the image of the Canadian flag stamp, but with no face value. The postcards can be mailed within Canada for delivery anywhere in the world. This postcard is a pilot project, currently being test marketed in three tourist areas: Ottawa, Toronto, and Montreal. The test period runs from July 1997 until February 1998. The cards are available at about 150 locations such as hotel lobbies, airports, and tourist attractions. There are 25 different designs available, five for each of the the three cities, and 10 of views elsewhere in Canada. The cards are available from the National Philatelic Centre in Antigonish.

WINDOW ENVELOPES / LES ENVELOPPES À FENÊTRE PRÉAFFRANCHIES

Two new window envelopes in the Scenic Highways series have been issued by Canada Post. The new designs feature Ontario's "Wine Route" and British Columbia's "Sea to Sky Highway." The envelopes are expected to be useful to smaller businesses. They are available in both No. 8

and No. 10 size. New designs in the series are scheduled for release from time to time until 1999. The artwork, based on the Scenic Highways stamps, is by Lou Cable of Halifax. The envelopes are available at many regular postal outlets, and from the National Philatelic Centre in Antigonish.



1972 *SERIES OF THE CENTURY / LA SÉRIE DU SIÈCLE* EN 1972



Specifications:

Date of Issue:	20 September 1997
Last Day of Sale:	19 September 1998
Denomination:	2 x 45¢
Printer:	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Quantity:	18,000,000
Dimensions:	40 mm x 30 mm (horizontal)
Perforation:	13+
Paper:	Coated Papers
Gum:	P.V.A.
Printing Process:	six-colour lithography

Spécifications techniques

Date d'émission :	20 septembre 1997
Dernier jour de vente :	19 septembre 1998
Valeur :	2 x 0,45 $
Imprimession :	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Tirage :	18 000 000
Format :	40 mm x 30 mm (horizontal)
Dentelure :	13+
Papier :	Coated Papers
Gomme :	A.P.V.
Procédé d'impression	lithographie (six couleurs)

Pane Layout:	booklet of 10 stamps
Tagging:	general tagged, four sides
Design:	Charles Vinh
First Day:	Toronto, ON

Présentation de feuillets :	carnet de 10 timbres
Marquage :	procédé général, sur les quatre côtés
Design :	Charles Vinh
Premier jour :	Toronto, ON

PROMINENT CANADIANS / GRANDES FIGURES CANADIENNES

Martha Black
(1866-1957)

Judy LaMarsh
(1924-1980)

Réal Caouette
(1917-1976)

Lionel Chevrier
(1903-1987)



Specifications:

Date of Issue:	26 September 1997
Last Day of Sale:	25 September 1998
Denomination:	4 x 45¢
Printer:	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Quantity:	7,500,000
Dimensions:	30 mm x 40 mm (vertical)
Perforation:	13+
Paper:	Coated Papers
Gum:	P.V.A.
Printing Process:	five-colour lithography
Pane Layout:	sheetlet of 20 stamps
Tagging:	general tagged, four sides
Design:	Kosta (Gus) Tsetsekas
First Day:	Ottawa, ON

Spécifications techniques

Date d'émission :	26 septembre1997
Dernier jour de vente :	25 septembre 1998
Valeur :	4 x 0,45 $
Imprimession :	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Tirage :	7 500 000
Format :	30 mm x 40 mm (vertical)
Dentelure :	13+
Papier :	Coated Papers
Gomme :	A.P.V.
Procédé d'impression	lithographie (cinq couleurs)
Présentation de feuillets :	feuille de 20 timbres
Marquage :	procédé général, sur les quatre côtés
Design :	Kosta (Gus) Tsetsekas
Premier jour :	Ottawa, ON

THE SUPERNATURAL / VISIONS SPECTRALES



Specifications:

Date of Issue:	1 October1997
Last Day of Sale:	29 September1998
Denomination:	4 x 45¢
Printer:	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Quantity:	16,000,000
Dimensions:	40 mm x 39.5 mm
Perforation:	13+
Paper:	Coated Papers
Gum:	P.V.A.
Printing Process:	six-colour lithography plus varnish
Pane Layout:	sheetlet of 16 stamps
Tagging:	general tagged, four sides
Design:	Louis Fishauf
First Day:	Sydney, NS

In addition to the individual stamps, Canada Post will be retailing sheetlets of the stamps, Glo-in-the-dark first day covers, a Horror Collection book, and temporary tatoos. All are produced in conjunction with the postal administrations of the United States, Great Britain and Ireland.

Spécifications techniques

Date d'émission :	1 octobre 1997
Dernier jour de vente :	29 septembre 1998
Valeur :	4 x 0,45 $
Imprimession :	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Tirage :	16 000 000
Format :	40 mm x 39,5 mm
Dentelure :	13+
Papier :	Coated Papers
Gomme :	A.P.V.
Procédé d'impression	lithographie (six couleurs) à vernissage
Présentation de feuillets :	feuillet de 16 timbres
Marquage :	procédé général, sur les quatre côtés
Design :	Louis Fishauf
Premier jour :	Sydney, NS

Outre les timbres seules, la Société canadienne des postes met en vente des blocs-feuillets de timbres, des plis premier jour phosphorescents, et un livre intitulé *La Collection des horreurs*, qui a été produit conjointement avec les États-Unis, la Grande-Bretagne et l'Irlande.

HIGH VALUE DEFINITIVE / TIMBRE COURANT DE VALEUR ÉLEVÉE



On October 15 Canada Post is releasing a definitive stamp valued at $8.00, the highest ever in Canada. The stamp portrays a grizzly bear walking on tundra. It is also a very large stamp, measuring almost 2.5 inches across. It is the first in a new series of high value definitives depicting mammals. In a return to older techniques, the central image on the stamp is engraved. The stamp is intended to meet the need for high rates on large envelopes and parcels.

Specifications:

Date of Issue:	15 October1997
Denomination:	$8.00
Printer:	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Initial Quantity:	10,000,000
Dimensions:	64 mm x 49 mm
Perforation:	13+
Paper:	Coated Papers
Gum:	P.V.A.
Printing Process:	three-colour lithography plus one-colour intaglio
Pane Layout:	sheetlet of 4 stamps
Tagging:	no tagging
Design:	Alain Leduc
Engraver:	Jorge Peral
First Day:	Banff, AB

La Société canadienne des postes a annoncé l' émission d'un timbre courant de 8 $, sur lequel figure l'imposant ours brun, ou grizzli. Ce timbre sera la première émission de cette série consacrée aux mammifères du Canada. Pour réaliser cette vignette, qui porte la valeur la plus élevée jamais attribuée à un timbre courant au Canada, on a eu recours à la gravure sur acier. En émettant la nouvelle vignette, la Société canadienne des posts désire répondre à la demande de ses clients et de ses agents de vente au détail.

Spécifications techniques

Date d'émission :	15 octobre 1997
Valeur :	$8.00
Imprimession :	Canadian Bank Note Co.
Tirage :	10 000 000
Format :	64 mm x 49 mm
Dentelure :	13+
Papier :	Coated Papers
Gomme :	A.P.V.
Procédé d'impression	lithographie (trois couleurs) et taille-douce
Présentation de feuillets :	feuillet de 4 timbres
Marquage :	procédé général, sur les quatre côtés
Design :	Alain Leduc
Gravé :	Jorge Peral
Premier jour :	Banff, AB

Society Reports / Rapports de la Société

From Molly Krajewski, Sales Circuit Manager....

I recently received a circuit back with a puzzling remark written on the Advice Note. It said, "Please do not send any more books in U.S." We looked over the books which had just been returned and all their sales prices were in Canadian dollars. However most of them quoted Catalogue values from Scott's which is of course an American catalogue.

Since the Canadian dollar is now worth so much less than the U.S. dollar, owners would still be giving a 40% discount if they priced their stamps dollar for dollar. Since it would be an enormous amount of work to convert Scott's prices into Canadian dollars, many owners are simply using the Scott's prices as is, and then figuring how many Canadian dollars to ask for their stamps. The prices asked are in Canadian dollars.

Perhaps this is the time and place to remind American owners that we sell in Canadian dollars and they should take this into consideration when pricing their stamps for the Royal's circuits.

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Exchanges Wanted / Demandes d'échange

Since the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is the national society of philatelists in Canada, many requests for exchange partners are referred to us. As a service to our members, we are pleased to present these names, so that those who wish to do so can make overseas contacts. Please note that we have no way of checking the credentials of the individuals who write to us asking that their names be published; therefore, we urge that caution be taken when answering these requests.

La Société royale de philatélie du Canada ne s'occupe pas normalement des échanges entre philatélistes, mais comme elle est la société philatélique nationale du Canada, ou lui transmet de nombreuses demandes de philatélistes désireux de trouver des corrspondants pour échanger des timbres. Ainsi atelle décidé, pour rendre service à ses membres, de publier les noms intéressés d'outremer, afin que ceux qui désirent établir des rapports avec eux puissent la faire. Je vous signale toutefois que nous ne savons rien des personnes qui nous demandent de publier leur nom, c'est pourquoi je vous conseille d'être prudent en épondant à ces demandes d'échange.

Milli Roberto
Via M. Fanti, 10-26
15149 Genova,
ITALY
"I am interested to contact serious collectors in your country for an exchange of stamps."

Miki Friend
Box 25154
SNIF Check Post
IL-31251 Haifa,
ISRAEL
"I am a serious general collector of mint stamps in complete sets from all over the world, more than 30 years ago. Since 1992 I have started to collect phone cards from all over the world. I have a very large collection of both and would like to find some exchange friends for stamps and phone cards among readers of your magazine. I can send a wide range of items in exchange, including Israel stamps and world wide thematics."

Geoff Phillips
3/8 Capitol Avenue
McKinnon, Melbourne
Victoria 3204,
AUSTRALIA
"I am a retired pensioner who has adopted stamp collecting, which I find most interesting. I have lots of duplicates of Australia and Australian Agency countries such as Samoa, Fiji, and Christmas Island. I hope to find someone in Canada who could use my swaps. In exchange I would welcome stamps of Canada."

Vladimir Boyko
Syrenevy Boulevard, 58, flat 57
Moscow E-484
RUSSIA 105484
"I'm looking for a reliable partner to exchange stamps. I'm interested in mint stamps of Canada and Canadian covers postmarked above the Arctic Circle, as well as special polar cancellations such as expeditions, meteorological stations, and ice-breakers. I have similar material from Russia."

Jeanne Kleinschmidt
3 Pasillo Ln.
Hot Springs, AR 71909-3826
USA
"I would like the opportunity to trade for current used stamps of Canada."

Henk van Hof
Tentwagendrift 42
3436 AD Nieuwegein
HOLLAND
"I am a man 52 years old. I am working as a teacher. My hobbies are travelling and collecting stamps. I have been collecting for 40 years and for that reason have thousands of duplicates. I can offer only used stamps of mostly recent years of the following countries: the 15 members of the European community, Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, USSR, Romania, DDR, Czechoslovakia, Tsjechie, Slovakia, USA, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Indonesia. I am very interested in stamps of Canada. Every month my stock of duplicates is changing, because I have a lot of exchanging partners all over the world."

COMING EVENTS / CALENDRIER

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

1998

MARCH 20 - 22: EDMONTON SPRING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHOW '98, hosted by the Edmonton Stamp Club at the Conference Centre, Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton. Open exhibits, bourse, and seminars. Information: Keith Spencer or John Powell, Box 399, Edmonton, AB T5J 2J6; phone (403) 437-1787 or (403) 435-7006.

MAY 8 - 10: PIPEX '98, National show of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, hosted by the Okanagan Mainline Philatelic Association, at Best Western Vernon Lodge, 3914 - 32 Street, Vernon, BC V1T 5P1. Information: Jon Johnson, Box 923, Vernon, BC V1T 6M8; (250) 549-1838 or jcjohnso@junction.net

MAY 29 - 31: ROYAL 98 ROYALE, annual convention, exhibition and dealer's bourse of the RPSC, sponsored by the Hamilton Philatelic Society, at the Hamilton Convention Centre, King Street West, Hamilton. Hours: Friday 10 am to 6 pm, Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Information: Box 1998, LCD 1, Hamilton, ON L8L 8J5. E-mail: royal98@interlynx.net

Website: http://home.interlynx.net/~royal98

1997

OCTOBER 18: 36th annual show of the Barrie and District Stamp Club, at Sunnidale Community Centre, Sunnidale Rd., Barrie, Ont. 10 am to 5 pm. Free admission; luch counter; 12 dealers. Information: Lew Metzger, Box 1113, Stn. Main, Barrie, ON L4M 5E2; phone (705) 721-8354.

OCTOBER 18: annual show and bourse of the Guelph Stamp Club. Details to be announced.

OCTOBER 25: 9th annual stamp show and sale sponsored by the Trenton Stamp Club, at Dufferin Centre, 344 Dufferin Ave., Trenton, Ont. Hours: 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission, exhibits, 10 dealers, door prizes, and hourly table auctions. Great food at our hospitality tables. Information: Peter Howe, (613) 392-4845.

OCTOBER 25: Brantford Stamp Club's annual exhibition and bourse at the regular location, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St., Brantford. 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission and parking, 13 dealers, sales circuit, beginners' booth, exhibits, draws, prizes. Part of the Sesquicentennial celebrations. Information: Show Convenor, Brantford Stamp Club, Box 25003, West Brant Postal Outlet, Brantford, ON N3T 5M3.

OCTOBER 25: MIDDPEX 97, annual show of the Middlesex Stamp Club of London, at Whiteoaks Mall, 1105 Wellington Rd., London. 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Free admission and parking, 100-frame exhibition, 25 dealers, silent auction, prizes. Information: Pat Delmore, Box 234, Mount Brydges, ON N0L 1W0; (519) 204-2507.

NOVEMBER 8: KENTPEX 97, annual show of the Kent County Stamp Club, at Wheels Motor Inn, Richmond and Keil, Chatham, Ont. Exhibits, dealers, free admission & parking. Information: Paul McDonnell, (519) 354-1845.

1998

FEBRUARY 7: Bramalea Stamp Club's Annual Exhibition and Bourse, at the Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Drive, Brampton, Ontario. Free admission. Open local exhibits (6-page frames). Judging/exhibiting seminar, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors meeting. Information: Show Chairman, Box 92531, Brampton, ON L6W 4R1.

FEBRUARY 14: BURLPEX '98, 17th annual exhibition and dealer's bourse sponsored by the Burlington Stamp Club, at Appleby Mall, corner of Appleby Line and New St., Burlington. Hours: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Information: Frank Haller, 430 Belvenia Rd., Burlington ON L7L 2G6.

FEBRUARY 21-28: NIPEX 98, exhibition and bourse sponsored by the Niagara Philatelic Society, at the Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Road, Niagara Falls, Ont. Hours: 10 am to 5 pm. Information: Ed Yonelinas, R R 1, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

L0S 1J0. E-mail: mastamps@computan.on.ca

FEBRUARY 28: APEX 98, 18th annual exhibition and dealers' bourse of the Ajax Stamp Club, at Annandale Golf and Curling Club, Church St. and Bayly St. W., Ajax, Ont. 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission, 15 dealers, exhibits, youth booth, snack bar, door prizes. Information: Sam Calnek, Box 107, Ajax ON L1S 3C2; (905) 831-9886.

MARCH 14: OAKPEX '98, annual exhibition and bourse sponsored by the Oakville Stamp Club, at St. Paul's United Church (east of the 4th Line on Rebecca Street, Oakville). Hours: 10 am to 5 pm. Information: Jim Stanley, Box 69643, Oakville, ON L6J 7R4.

MARCH 21: OXPEX '98 and OTPEX '98 (Oxford Philatelic Society Annual Exhibition and Ontario Topical Exhibition), at John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, Ont. (off Hwy. 59 near Hwy 401). 10 am to 5 pm. Show features 160 frames of competitive exhibits, judging critique, prize draws, youth booth, Canada Post counter, displays and refreshments. Information: Gib Stephens, Box 20113, Woodstock, ON N4S 8X8.

MARCH 28-29: North Toronto Stamp Club's 55th annual exhibition and bourse at the Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. at Leslie St., North York. 10 am to 6 pm Sat.; 10 am to 5 pm Sun. Free parking, free admission, wheelchair access, competitive exhibits, 22 dealers, refreshments. Information: Ben Marier, (416) 492-9311.

International Exhibitions

1997

DEC. 8 - DEC. 14: INDEPEX '97, New Delhi, India. Canadian commissioner: Charles J.G. Verge, Box 2788, Stn. D, Ottawa, ON K1P 5W8; (613) 998-9809; fax (613) 998-8620.

1998

MAY 13 - 21: ISRAEL '98, International Show held under FIP patronage in Tel Aviv, Israel. Information from the Canadian commissioner: Mr. Wm. G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC V6M 3A7.

JUNE 18 - 21: JUVALUX '98, an FIP Sponsored Youth Show to be held in Luxembourg. Canadian Commissioner: Father Jean-Claude Lafleur, 4900 rue St-Felix, St-Augustine, QC G3A 1X3.

JULY 25 - AUG. 2: PORTUGAL 98 has been downgraded, and is no longer an FIP sponsored international show. Further information: Mr. J.J. Danielski, 50 Blackwell Ave., Unit 21, Scarborough, ON M1B 1K2.

OCT. 20 - 25: ILSAPEX 98, FIP sponsored show at Gallagher's Estate Exhibition Centre, 20 minutes from Johannesburg, South Africa. Information from the Canadian commissioner: Mr. William G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC V6M 3A7; (604) 261-1953; fax (604) 736-5097.

OCT. 23 - NOV. 1: ITALIA 98, FIP sponsored show in Milan, Italy. Classes will be Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately, and Literature. Information from the Canadian commissioner: Mr. Peter Madej, 30 Ormskirk Court, Toronto, ON M6S 1B1.

1999

MAR. 19 - 24: AUSTRALIA 99, an FIP sponsored World Philatelic Exhibition, limited to Traditional, Postal Stationery, Revenues, and Social Philately, to be held in Melbourne. Canadian Commissioner: Mr. Owen White, Box 860, Stn. K, Toronto, ON M4P 2H2; phone (416) 481-4731; fax (416) 482-4256; e-mail: olwhite@zircon.geology.utoronto.ca

APR. 27 - MAY 4: IBRA '99. World Exhibition under FIP patronage, in Nuremberg, Germany. Canadian Commissioner: Maj. R.K. Malott, 16 Harwick Cres., Ottawa, ON K2H 6R1; (613) 829-0280; fax (613) 829-0280.

JULY 2 - 11: PHILEXFRANCE 99, World Exhibition with FIP patronage, to be held in Paris, France. Canadian Commissioner: Dr. J.J. Danielski, 71 Gennela Sq., Scarborough, ON M1B 5M7; (416) 283-2047.

AUGUST 21 - 30: CHINA '99, World Exhibition with FIP patronage, in Beijing, China. Canadian Commissioner: W.G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC V6M 3A7; (604) 261-1953; fax (604) 261-3459.

2000

MAY 22 - 28: THE STAMP SHOW 2000, a celebration of philately for the millennium, with FIP patronage, to be held at Earls Court in London. Canadian Commissioner: Mr. Clifford R. Guile, 342 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, ON M4T 1P4; (416) 487-8035.

CHAPTER MEETINGS / RÉUNIONS DES CLUBS MEMBRES

AJAX PHILATELIC SOCIETY

RPSC Chapter 163 meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, September to June at Ajax Public Library, 65 Harwood Ave. S., from 6pm to 9pm. All new members and visitors are welcome. Address: PO Box 107, Ajax, ON L1S 3C3.

AMICALE des PHILATÉLISTES des l'OUTAOUAIS

L'APO, chapitre 190 de la SRPC, se réunit tous les jeudi de début septembre à fin avril, de 18h30 à 21h00. Les réunions ont lieu au Centre Communautaire Tétreau Parc Moussette, Boul. Brunet, Hull. Les visiteurs et les nouvraux membres seront toujours les bienvenus. Visitors and new members are welcome. Information: P. Sarault, 82 rue Kent, Hull QC J8X 3K4.

CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE ARGENTEUIL STAMP CLUB

Chapter 118 meets 2nd Wednesdays of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 pm. Bilingual and bi-province meetings in Hawkesbury ON and Lachute PQ. Information: P.-Yves Séguin, 2888 Front Rd., Hawkesbury ON K6A 2T4.

BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 73 meets second Wednesday of each month except July and August at 7:30 pm. at Parkview Centre, 189 Blake St., Barrie. Table Auction at every meeting. Visitors welcome. Contact: Sec.-Treas. Lew Metzger, Box 1113, Barrie ON L4M 5E2.

BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 144 meets 1st Sunday October to June inclusive (1:30-4:00 pm) and 3rd Tuesday year round (7:30-9:30 pm) at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Meeting Room 2, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.) Bramalea, Ont. Visitors welcome. Correspondence: Bramalea Stamp Club, Box 92531, Bramalea ON L6W 4R1.

BRANTFORD STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 1 meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, September to May, and the first Tuesday in June, at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St., Brantford, Ont. Doors open at 7 pm, short business meeting at 8 pm, followed by a program. Circuit books, 5 dealers. Visitors welcome. Information: Secretary, Box 25003, 119 Colborne St. W., Brantford ON N3T 6K5; (519) 753-9425.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The British Columbia Philatelic Society meets every Wednesday, September to June at 7:30 pm in the Amenity Room, Grosvenor Building, 1040 W. Georgia St. Information: B.C.P.S., 2955 West 38th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6N 2X2.

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

(Chapter 66) Regular meeting: First Wednesday of month, 7 pm. Auctions on third Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. month, 7:30 pm. Kerby Centre, 1133 7 Ave. SW. No meetings July and August; no auction December. Correspondence to Calgary Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 1478, Station "M", Calgary AB T2P 2L6.

CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY

RPSC Chapter 187, The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society (CAS) welcomes anyone interested in aerophilately or astrophilately, worldwide. Yearly membership $15. No formal meetings; several members meet at the RA Stamp Club meetings at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ont. 7:30 pm every Monday except June, July and August. Information: Ron Miyanishi, 124 Gamble Ave., Toronto ON M4J 2P3.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL PHILATELY (CAFIP)

Chapter 76, Jan Bart Judaica Study Group, meets 2nd Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 pm, at Shaare Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto. Contact: Joseph Berkovits, York Toronto P.O. Box 33, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto ON ; (416) 635-1749.

COLBORNE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 205 meets on the second and fourth Tuesday September to May inclusive at 7 pm, in the Drop-in Centre, Victoria Square, Colborne, Ont. All stamp collectors welcome. Information: Mary Jackson, Box 33, Castleton, Ont. K0K 1M0, phone (905) 344-7882.

CREDIT VALLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY - MISSISSAUGA -

Chapter 67 meets 2nd and 4th Monday of every month (except on holidays and in July and August) at 7:30 pm at Forest Avenue Public School, 20 Forest Ave., Port Credit. Visitors always welcome. Contact Bob Laker, (905) 279-8807.

DELTA STAMP CLUB

Chapter 138 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (except June through August) at 8 pm at the Phoenix Club, 6062 - 16th Ave., Delta, BC. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call 943-5738.

EAST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Chapter 12 meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays (except July and August) at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Ave. (first east of Woodbine, at Cosburn), north of arena. Visitors welcome. Sec.: Raymond Reakes, 188 Woodmount Ave., Toronto ON M4C 3Z4.

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

Touring stampers, new members and guests are welcome to visit Edmonton's R.P.S.C. Chapter 6. Meetings every other Monday, September through June, 6:30 pm, at St. Joseph High School, 4th floor cafeteria, 109 St. and 108 Ave. Correspondence: Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton AB T5J 2J6; Information: Keith Spencer (403) 437-1787.

ESSEX COUNTY STAMP CLUB (WINDSOR)

R.P.S.C. Chapter 154 meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (4th Wednesday in July and August) at the Teutonia Club, 55 Edinborough, Windsor, Ont. Meetings start at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Lots of parking; all

visitors are welcome. Information: Essex Count Stamp Club, 2975 Clemenceau Blvd., Windsor ON N8T 2R2; (519) 974-2390.

ETOBICOKE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

R.P.S.C. Chapter 78 meets at Fairfield Centre, 80 Lothian Way, Etobicoke at 7:30 pm, 1st Wednesday of every month except July and August. Visitors always welcome. Information: C.E. Allen, 5 Aintree Court, Etobicoke ON M8W 2E1. Phone 251-3425.

FENELON STAMP CLUB

R.P.S.C. Chapter 176 meets 2nd Monday of each month in the Fenelon Falls Community Hall behind the Village Office on Market Street at 7:30 pm. Visitors always welcome. Information from the President: Margaret Allen, R R 1, Fenelon Falls, ON K0M 1N0.

GREATER VICTORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 32 meets on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay. Circuit books, auction and special programmes prevail. Membership $8 per year. Visitors welcome. Information: Don Dundee, 928 Claremont Ave., Victoria, BC V8Y 1K3; (604) 658-8458.

HAMILTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

R.P.S.C. Chapter 51 meets at 6 pm on 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays, Sept. to June except holidays, and 2nd Mondays July and August, at Bishop Ryan Secondary School, Quigley Road and Albert Street, in east-end Hamilton. 10 dealers, extensive sales circuit, youth booth, library. Auctions at each meeting, slide shows and speakers periodically. Nominal door fee. Free coffee. Visitors and juniors welcome. Information: H.P.S., Box 60510, 673 Upper James St., Hamilton ON L9C 7N7.

KAWARTHA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 58, R.P.S.C. Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through June (excluding 4th Tuesdays in December and June). Meetings 7 pm at St. Peters High School. Information: Lloyd Mosher, 1269 Royal Drive, Peterborough, ON K9H 6R6.

KELOWNA & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 90 meets monthly, 2nd Wednesday, September to June from 7 to 10 pm at Dr. Knox Middle School Cafeteria, 1555 Burtch Ave. Business meeting at 8 pm followed by an auction. Visitors welcome. Information: Box 1185, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7P8; (604) 765-6174.

KENT COUNTY STAMP CLUB (CHATHAM, ON)

Chapter 7 meets 4th Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December) in the cafeteria of John McGregor Secondary School, 300 Cecile, beginning at 7:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Information from secretary: Abie Heersma, 73 Jasper, Chatham ON N7M 4C1.

KINGSTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 49 meets 2nd Monday, Sept.-May and 4th Monday, Sept.-Nov. and Jan.-Apr., at 8 pm, St. Thomas Anglican Church Hall, 130 Lakeview Ave. at Cranbrook (one block west of Days Rd. and one block north of Front Rd. in Kingston Township. Free parking, visitors are always welcome. Information: President, Kingston Stamp Club, 1960 Hwy. 2 East, Kingston ON K7L 4V1; (613) 546-3332.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 13 meets 2nd Thursday every month (except July and August) at Rink in the Park, Seagram Drive, Waterloo. Visitors welcome. Information: Betty J. Martin, P.O. Box 43007, Eastwood Square Post Office, Kitchener ON N2H 6S9; 578-7782.

LAKEHEAD STAMP CLUB

Chapter 33 meets 2nd Wednesday and last Friday each month, September to June at the Herb Carroll Centre, 1100 Lincoln St., Thunder Bay ON. Meetings start at 8:00; visitors welcome. Sec.: D. Lein, 232 Dease St., Thunder Bay ON P7C 2H8.

LAKESHORE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 84 meets at Karnak Hall, 3350 Boulevard des Sources, Dollard des Ormeaux, QC on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, September to June at 7:30 pm. Information: David Nickson, President, P.O. Box 1, Pointe Claire, PQ H9R 4N5.

MILTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 180 meets last Monday of each month (except December), from 7:00 pm at Hugh Foster Hall (next to Town Hall) in Milton, Ont. Silent auction every meeting. For information: Milton Stamp Club, 425 Valleyview Cres., Milton ON L9T 3K9; Phone (905) 878-1533 or (905) 878-9076.

MUSKOKA STAMP CLUB

For information, please contact the president: Tom Anderson, 7 Sadler Drive, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1K4.

NORTH BAY & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 44 meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, September to May, at the Cassellholme Home for the Aged, 400 Olive Street, North Bay ON at 7 pm. (Basement meeting room.) Table auction and sales circuit. Visitors are always welcome. Information: John Fretwell, RR 1, Callandar ON P0H 1H0; (705) 752-1364.

NORTH SHORE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 198 meets on alternate Tuesdays, September through June, at North Vancouver City Library, 121 West 14th Street, North Vancouver BC. Visitors are always welcome. For the current meeting schedule and information, call Erna Krische at 985-2810.

NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 21 meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month (except July and August) at 7 pm in the lounge of Centennial Arena, north side of Finch Ave. W., west of Bathurst. Sales circuit, auctions, speakers, lectures. Visitors welcome. Information: John DeGroot, Box 62, Willowdale ON M2N 5S7; (416) 493-1008.

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB

The first affiliate of the RPSC, est. 1922, meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, September to June at the Nova Scotia Museum. Visitors are always welcome. Information: E.

Sodero, 831 Tower Rd., Halifax NS B3H 2Y1.

OAKVILLE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 135 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7pm in the Cafeteria, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School (formerly Perdue High School), 124 Margaret Drive (Lakeshore West/Dorval Drive), Oakville. Visitors welcome. Information: Oakville Stamp Club, Box 69643, Oakville ON L6J 7R4.

OTTAWA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 16 meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm, September through May, at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St., Ottawa ON. Visitors are always welcome. Information: Pres. Mitch Gosselin, (819) 682-6277; P.O. Box 65085, Merivale Postal Outlet, Nepean, ON K2G 5Y3.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 65 meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, September to May, at Knights of Columbus Hall, behind St. Rita's Catholic Church (Dundas St. E.) Woodstock, Ont. Trading and junior program at 7 pm, regular meeting at 7:30 pm. Speakers, draws, mini auctions, draw prizes, contests, dealers. Information: Gib Stephens, P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock ON N4S 8X8.

PENTICTON AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 127 meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 pm at the United Church Hall, 696 Main St., Penticton, B.C. A short business meeting is followed by circuit books every month and four slide shows in the year. Visitors always welcome. Information: K. Giessen, 217 Redwing Pl., Penticton BC V2A 8K6; phone (250) 493-0188.

R.A. STAMP CLUB - OTTAWA

Chapter 41 meets every Monday (except June, July and August) at 7:30 pm at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa ON. K1H 7X7. Visitors welcome. Information: (613) 733-5100.

REGINA PHILATELIC CLUB

Chapter 10 meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, September through May, from 7 -10 pm at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate Library, 2601 Coronation St., Regina. Visitors are always welcome. Information: Box 1891, Regina SK S4P 3E1.

ROYAL CITY STAMP CLUB

Chapter 104 meets 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 pm at Community Centre, 65 East Sixth Ave., by Canada Game Pool, corner of McBride, New Westminster BC. Information: Box 145, Milner BC V0X 1T0. Phone 534-1884.

SAINT JOHN STAMP CLUB

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (Except July and August), 7 pm at the Saint John High School, Canterbury St., Saint John, NB. Visitors and new members welcome. Information: Saint John Stamp Club, 185 Princess Street, Saint John NB E2L 1K8.

ST. JOHN'S PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (except July and August), 8 pm at Cabot Institute. Visitors welcome. Information: J. Don Wilson, 11 Elm Place, St. John's, NF A1B 2S4; (709) 726-2741.

SASKATOON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 80 meets second and fourth Mondays September through May, between 7 to 9 pm at the Saskatoon Field House, 2020 College Drive, Saskatoon, Sask. Visitors always welcome. Information from the secretary: Doug Smith, (306) 249-3092; e-mail: ae245@sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca

SOUTH CARIBOO COIN AND STAMP CLUB – 100 MILE HOUSE, B.C. –

The club meets 3rd Mondays of each month at the 100 Mile House Elementary School Library. For information, contact Horst Stock, 395-4497.

SUDBURY STAMP CLUB

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, September to June, in Room 126, LaSalle Secondary School at 7:30 pm. Meetings include slide shows, presentations, and an auction. New members are welcome. Information: David Squarzolo, Box 2063, Stn. A, Sudbury ON P3A 1L8; (705) 566-0378.

TORONTO HARMONIE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 94 meets third Thursdays each month, 7:30 pm, Victoria Park Secondary School, Library Seminar Room, 15 Wallingford Road, Don Mills ON. Information: J. Doehler (416) 438-4862, or P. Mustard (416) 690-9711.

UNION PHILATÉLIQUE de MONTREAL

Chapter 3 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, September to June at 7 pm, 7110 8th Ave., Montreal (St-Michel) PQ. Visitors always welcome. Information: 9170 Millen St., Montreal PQ H2M 1W7.

WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Chapter 14 meets second and fourth Tuesdays (except July and August), 7:30 pm at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke. Visitors always welcome. Information: 331 Rathburn Rd., Islington ON M9B 2L9.

WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays (except July and August), 7 pm in Room 308, Union Centre, 275 Broadway Ave. (corner of Broadway and Smith St.). Visitors always welcome. Information: P.O. Box 1425, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z1.

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19 March 1997

Mr. W. H. P. Maresch
R. Maresch & Son
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Dear Bill,

The results are now in on your sale of my collection of used Canadian stamps and covers, and I must take the opportunity to share my reaction with you and your colleagues at R. Maresch & Son.

When I approached you last fall to discuss the possible disposition of my collection, I did so with some trepidation. Guided by your advice over many years, and with key acquisitions from your sales, I knew I had formed a collection of quality and some philatelic value. I was none the less concerned about the timing, how the material would be catalogued, and whether I would have any input. I need not have worried.

From the time of my initial consultation with you and Rick Sheryer, my concerns received your fullest attention. As your work progressed, you kept me fully informed and gave me several opportunities to be involved. The collection could have been spread among several auctions, but instead you recommended a single sale that would highlight my approach, in a catalogue that departed from your normal format. In terms of lotting, layout, and colour illustration, it set new standards, in my opinion. By sale time I was completely satisfied that everything had been done to present the best possible sale, from my perspective and that of the bidders you hoped to attract.

The results, which far exceeded my expectation, confirmed that my selection of R. Maresch & Son had been the right choice. I would not hesitate to direct prospective clients to your firm.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely.

David Roberts

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