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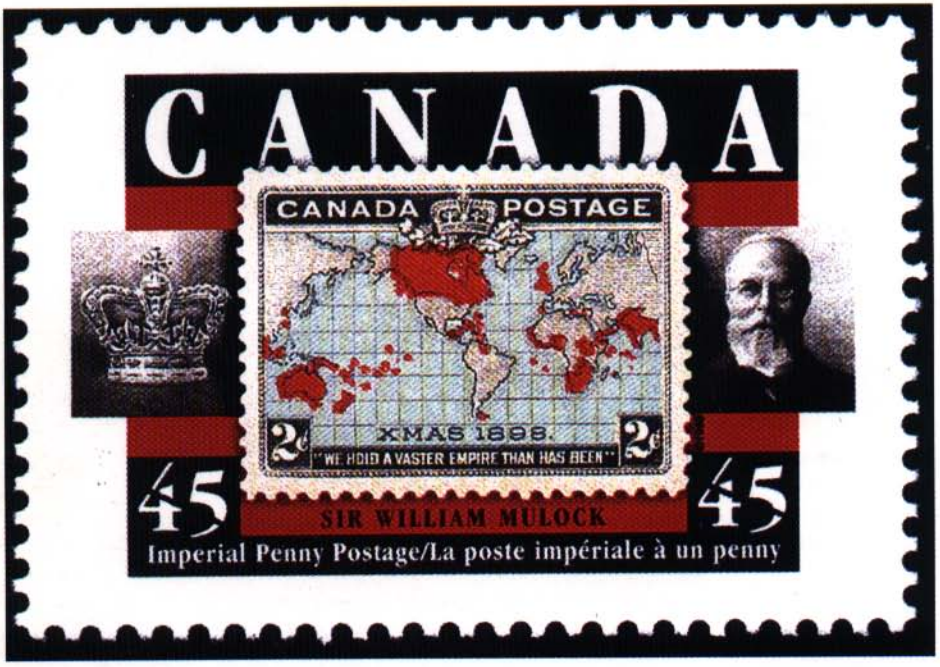
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VOL. 49 • NO.3 MAY-JUNE 1998 MAI-JUIN

Journal of The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA

Revue de la SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA



INSIDE:

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The Canadian Philatelist
Le philatéliste canadien

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The Cover:

The stamp was designed by François Dallaire of Montreal. The central design image is the 1898 stamp, bordered to the left by the image of Victoria's crown. On the right is a period drawing of Sir William Mulock, Canada's Postmaster General (1896-1905).

Le timbre a été conçu par François Dallaire, de Montréal. Le image du centre est celle du timbre de 1898, flanquée à gauche, de la couronne de la reine Victoria. À droite, on peut voir une portrait de sir William Mulock, ministre des Postes du Canada de 1896 à 1905.

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From the Editor's Desk

by J.J. Macdonald

Gremlins - We Got `em!

These miserable little beasts infected our January-February issue in a number of ways. They made all the right hand pages read 1997, not 1998 and they changed the value realized for Canada' s most famous stamp, the 12d black, to $50,500 when it really brought $80,500 in the Maresch auction as reported by Dean Mario on page 17 of that issue. Also, on page 5, I mentioned the nice protection afforded by the British Post Office to special cancels, but they then ate the appropriate illustration. For the record, it is reproduced on the right.





Philately and Oxfam.

For almost twenty years OXFAM Canada has run a stamp program wherein volunteers have saved, scrounged and begged stamps, postmarks and covers from everything from personal mail and office mail to the garbage. They have thus saved much for the collectors of modern postal history. Their most recent effort involved a mail-auction held in late February,1998. If modern markings or unusual routes are in your range of interests, I recommend you get in touch with Oxfam Canada Stamp Program, 294 Albert Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, K1P 6E6. All proceeds from their sales go to self-help projects in the Third World. Everybody wins - you get the interesting covers and the underprivileged get some much needed help.

Club and other Publications.

At various times our editorial offices receive copies of bulletins, newsletters small journals and other items from our chapter stamp clubs and other sources. Most of them generally contain at least one item or article that would be of interest and benefit to members of all clubs. May I be so bold as to suggest that you might have your club exchange directly for your publication? A brief bit of information on each item received follows for your benefit, giving the name, the address and the editor together with the publication regularity.

a) "El Sextante" (No it is not a biography of someone in either Washington or Ottawa.) Published by "Del Grupo de Filatelia Naval", editor Carlos Eduardo Rucci, Centro Naval (C.C. 127) Florida 801,(1005) Buenos Aries, Argentina. Quarterly. Although written in Spanish it is not too difficult to comprehend, is excellently printed with many illustrations and dedicated to ships on stamps and all types of collateral material. Highly recommended.

b) "The Trumpeter" from the Croatian Philatelic Society. Editor Eck Spahich, P. O. Box 696, Fritch, Texas 79036-0696. If you are interested in old or new and rapidly evolving states of Southeast Europe this publication is for you. The Autumn 1997 number contained interesting notes on the hyper-inflation in Montenegro, where the old dinar was apparently devalued 100 million million fold in five years.

c) "The Shoe Box" The Newsletter of the Lakeshore Stamp Club, Inc. Editor, Michael Rixon, P. O. Box 1, Pointe-Claire, Dorval, Quebec H9R 4N5, a monthly. The latest issue had fun notes on fantasy town cancels of Canada, featuring Brucefield, Ontario and a reprint of C. J. Phillips' article of Exhibitions and their general benefits to a club.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY?

In 1974, The Universal Postal Union celebrated the Centenary of its existence. Five hundred delegates got very fancy sets of booklets. None were sold to the public in this form. I'm breaking up several sets at reasonable prices. Over 100 countries involved.

The USA Centenary booklet has $2.40 face value in stamps. I'll buy any number at $100.00 per book.

The one for Canada is more generous, it has about $25.00 face value. Again, I'll buy any number at $100.00 each.

My price for these, and others, will be higher but, still quite a bargain, as hardly one collector in a 1,000 has even seen these. Name your country, and I'll introduce you to something you will be proud to display!

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d) "Society Newsletter" St. John's, Nfld., 33 Weymouth Street, St. John' s, A1B 2B7. Tom Nemee is the club secretary. Monthly. The February 1998 issue has a very nice concise set of rules for running a good club auction.

e) Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. Editor, George Holland. P. O. Box 1585, Florence, Oregon 97439-0103. Monthly. The January 1998 issue told the story behind a fascinating "burlap" cover. It also included a PIPEX exhibition entry form that some clubs could copy to advantage. Also they outline their standard for "Non-Standard Display" and the judging criteria for such exhibitions and also for the newly popular one-frame exhibits.

International Philatelic News

The losses incurred by Pacific 97 apparently were not as great as first feared. The show attracted 160,000 visitors, in contrast to last year's other internationals, 80,000 in Russia and 15,000 in India. There is a report that the U.S. Postal Service will henceforth support an international exhibition once every five years and that the first will be in Anaheim, California, July 7-16, 2000.

Juniors and Penpals

The following appeal from Marianne Hall speaks for itself. I suggest members draw it to the attention of the juniors in their clubs.

Dear Sirs:

My name is Marianne Hall. I am the penpals service director for the Junior Philatelists of America, an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. This group was founded for the benefit of young collectors eighteen years of age and younger.

The purpose of the Junior Philatelists of America's penpals service is to provide these young philatelists with an opportunity to develop new friendships around the globe and to trade stamps and philatelic knowledge with their new friends.

As the penpals service director, I receive a great many letters from young U. S. collectors requesting penpals from foreign countries. However, my list of foreign contacts is few.

If it would be possible, I request that you let your young collectors know of our service. We would be more than happy to match them up with American philatelists. They will need to send me their name, address, age, and other interests. They can contact me at this address: 181 Deer View Lane, Naches, Washington 98937, USA.

Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Gift Giving

A member of the RPSC, whose name I can't decipher, has kindly forwarded a copy of the Fall 1997 'Keeping in Touch' published by the Volunteer Centre of Metropolitan Toronto. In it is the following, which I consider a good suggestion that leaves everyone a winner.

"Does your Agency Need Additional Income"

Many persons started accumulating recently issued mint (unused) Canadian postage stamps in the 1960s and 1970s with the idea that the market value would increase and they could sell to others at a substantial profit.

Unfortunately the market did not behave as they had hoped, on the contrary, the market literally collapsed.

Today many collectors (or their relatives) are left holding large numbers of mint Canadian stamps, acquired over the last 20 years or so, which, in the current market, are very difficult to sell at prices at which they were purchased and in some cases they may be forced to sell at a loss.

These Canadian stamps, in denominations from 1 cent to several dollars, are as suitable for use today as postage on mail as they were when first issued by the Post Office years ago.

Here's a thought! Why not ask collectors holding these inventories of Canadian mint stamps to contribute some of them to agencies having a registered charitable status, which will give them a tax receipt for income tax purposes equal to the fact value of the postage stamps, and use these stamps on agency mail? Some of these stamps are very attractive too, and just might increase the possibility that agency correspondence will not get dumped out with junk mail.

LONG TIME COLLECTORS

Mr. Geoff Russell of London, Ontario has drawn the Editor's attention to the name of Phobe Billings (Mrs. J. H.) who still actively collects stamps. She has, in a very firm and clear script, briefly outlined her philatelic career to the Editor. Born in England, she came to Canada in 1917 and became a member of the London Philatelic Society.

She went overseas in 1942 with the Canadian Red Cross and served as a hostess at the Maple Leaf Club for the remainder of the second World War. It, therefore, was only natural that stamps depicting the Red Cross would have become and today remain her chief collecting interest.

In 1947 she, her husband Harry, Max Doupe and Tom Stewart were meeting every Friday in the Billings home and thus started the Middlesex Stamp Circle. "One interesting thing about my collecting of Red Cross was at the London Philatelic Club at one meeting they had a competition night. I showed eight pages of Red Cross stamps. Someone complained that these were not really stamps. I said I thought this was an exhibition not a competition and that I would withdraw the stamps. No, leave them, they said, they look nice. Mr. Green of Toronto, Mr. Jarret and Bert Balch, who started the Easter Seal campaign, were judges and they gave me top honor."

She wrote the feature article in Popular Stamps in April 1951 on this topic, which was the stimulus for the Red Cross thematic at that time. She also modestly confides, "At one time I had 10 neighborhood children come to the house every week after school. I got them interested in saving stamps. They have all scattered around the country but one still keeps in touch with me, he lives in Toronto. I still collect Red Cross stamps but around 1982 my sources were running thin. I also collect British stamps, New Zealand, Canada and some other British Commonwealth."



Phobe Billings

Readers may well ask, what is so special about Mrs. Billings - nothing really, except that she is still an active collector and on March 19, 1998 she celebrated her 100th birthday. Do you know of anyone who can even come within a decade of this? A belated Happy Birthday Phobe and many more wonderful collecting years. ❑

Editorial

by J.J. Macdonald

The Future: What Stamps will there be to Collect?

In a recent issue I inflicted on you my views about the possible return to the era of 'local' issues and the consequences of that on collecting. Now let us venture a little further afield and look at the evolving 'new issue' stamp market.

Most recently, complaints from collectors have been increasingly based, not on the lack of new items but, conversely, on the deluge of new issues flowing from almost all official postal agencies. (Canada herself will issue over 70 new different ones in 1998). Yet this very large number of new issues does not of itself guarantee either supply or availability of stamps that are affordable to newer or younger collectors. Good used copies of new issues are often very hard to find in many countries and the mint ones are relatively very expensive. Why has this come about?

A partial answer lies in the vast increase in 'retail postal outlets [RPO's], where it is often much harder to get new mint commemorative items. They often have tiny inventories of commemoratives, possibly because inventory requires capital and it is either lacking for such stamps, or commemoratives are thought to be unimportant.

So if you want nice used stamps it is increasingly necessary to order the item from Canada Post new issue service in Antigonish directly and then make up your own envelope with the stamps you need on it and mail it to yourself. Oh yes, you must also pray and hope that it will get cancelled with a presentable marking. Today the 'ink-jet' lines of type is most often as good as it gets. You can of course buy a used copy from a stamp dealer but because of the trouble he or she has had in getting it, you will pay, most often, the equivalent of the mint price. When we are trying to interest new, young collectors in the hobby this is no way to run the railroad.

There are further disturbing trends on the horizon of collecting good used stamps. Even Canada Post now places new emphasis on 'pre-stamped, windowed' envelopes which are targeted at small and medium sized business. Thus the costs associated with mailings can often be negotiated, making it cheaper for the business and easier for the post office to handle the mail items. Both objectives make good business sense but further dry-up the supply of used commemoratives. It is also a source that most small dealers relied on.

Consider also the report carried in the New York Times. It described the imminent advent of postage via the ubiquitous Internet. Granted Postage Meters have affixed the required label directly on envelopes for the last three-quarters of a century, but these products have never been a great challenge to stamp collecting, mainly because you need an expensive special meter and a pre-payment of money to stock it. Enter the Internet and creative entrepreneurs. "E-Stamp" of, where else, California hopes to be on the market in 1998 with a P.C. based postage meter thus turning your personal computer and printer into a postage meter. The details are as yet unknown to your editor but should strike fear in our collecting hearts with yet another substitute for stamps. E-Stamp has competition in none other than the giant corporation Pitney Bowes, so the method is likely a very real threat. On top of all of this is the latest wrinkle - the self-stick sheetlet of 45-cent Canadian stamps, available with your bank card from some automatic banking machines. It is also an innovative way to sell stamps and, for the public, a very convenient one, but I fear another threat to

continued on page 156

Letters to the Editor

Previously I had asked for your comments on the "Issues of the Future", as I called them. The initial response was really from J.D. Williamson and published previously. I now share the other replies with you, and again seek further comment.

Dear Sir:

The request to contact the PO about wallpaper stamps is a good idea, but unfortunately I have already tried a few times. There is no interest in reducing the number. Simple, the profit margin is enormous, into the millions compared to the very low cost of printing, distribution and overhead. Apparently the plan is to bring out even more, many having special SS and other gimmicks. The government gains from the GST on top of this. So why fight it? Rather, encourage it, and collectors will become fed up and not buy junk anymore. Even Arab states found this out and have reduced their output.

Yours sincerely,

H. Reiche, Ottawa

Hans also wrote to Canada Post, and received the following:

Dear H. Reiche:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Andre Ouellet, Chairman, enclosing an article about the quantities of stamps issued by Canada in comparison with Pacific Rim Counties. Please excuse the delay in replying.

I appreciated receiving your comments in the article. I would like to explain that we do not wish to create artificial scarcities of stamps in order for some to make a large profit while others are unable to obtain them. We feel an obligation to print enough stamps so that all collectors have a good chance of acquiring them, while also ensuring that there are enough quantities for postal usage. Recently print runs of Canadian stamps have been declining to better match demand. The demand for Asian stamps in particular is no doubt linked to the large population and the rapid economic growth in the region.

Also, we do not promote modern Canadian stamps as an investment: rather, we promote them for their historical educational and aesthetic values and the pleasures derived from their ownership.

Again, thank you for writing.

Mrs. Micheline Montreuil

Director of Stamp Production

To which Hans then further commented:

This letter mentions that Canada Post does not wish to create artificial scarcities of stamps for making large profits. They print enough stamps so that all collectors have a chance to buy them. This appears to be in contrast to their many recent stamps issues. Many of them have never seen mail usage and within a few days demanded prices that were many times that of the face value. Certain stamps issues were not even available to the general public, only to collectors.

A number of recent issues did make excellent portfolio investment opportunities, creating just the opposite of the intended wish. This practice started with the Montreal Youth Exhibition sheet, which was signed in a very limited quantity. This raised it's price, practically the same day, to more than ten times its face value. Similar issues have come on the market, such as the overprinted hockey sheet, some of the Chinese special packages, and the many uncut with and without the gutter, full sheets that will never see Postal use. Even the Canada Day Maple Trees practically cannot be found used and after a short period demand three times face value.

So why does the Post Office claim not to issue stamps "for some to make large profit while others are unable to obtain them?" In addition large overruns taken off the market after certain periods are

Letters...are continued on page 156

The President's Page
La page du président

by / par Keith Spencer

One of the important benefits of your "Royal" membership is eligibility to participate in our Society stamp collectors' insurance program. Collections, accumulated over time, can reach significant and surprising value and insurance becomes a prudent option. As our Harry Sutherland said recently in a "Philatelist" article, you can't take it with you - but other people can and sometimes do.

Our insurance program is arranged through Hugh Wood Canada Ltd. and Lloyd's of London. Coverage is broad and easily obtained. For instance, only items valued at over $5,000 (CDN) need be listed. For most of us, that's a very short list.

Stamp insurance specialist, Kris Gaetano invites your inquiries at:

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The 70th annual convention of your Society is set for Hamilton May 29-31, 1998 and I sense an air of enthusiasm everywhere I travel. The Organizing Committee has arranged a tremendous program for both collector and partner. The exhibition will be strong, the dealer list is outstanding and Canada Post will be an active participant. Its time to pack up the old kit bag. I look forward to meeting many of our members at the Hamilton Convention Centre!

P.S. Don't forget to pack your tooth brush!

Pouvoir bénéficier du programme d'assurance de collections est l'un des plus importants avantages d'être membre de la Royale. Les collections, de même que les accumulations de timbres, peuvent avoir une valeur monné taire certaine, parfois même importante, et il est sage de les assurer.

Comme l'a récemment dit Harry Sutherland dans un article du Philatéliste canadien, la plupart d'entre-nous ne peut pas toujours avoir l'oeil sur notre collection.

Notre programme d'assurance est administré par le courtier Hugh Wood Canada Ltd. et la Lloyd's de Londres. La couverture offerte est étendue et très facile àobtenir. En effet, seuls les items évalués à plus de 5 000$ canadiens doivent être listés. Pour la plupart d'entre-nous, la liste à fournir n'est pas très longue.

Pour obtenir des informations, contactez Kris Gaetano, le spécialiste de l'assurance-timbres, chez:

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La 70e convention annuelle de notre société se déroulera à Hamilton, du 29 au 31 mai 1998, et je sens une certaine fébrilité partout où je voyage. Le Comité organisateur a mis sur pied un extraordinaire programme, tant pour les collectionneurs que pour les organisations impliquées. L'exposition sera de haut niveau. La liste des négociants est impressionnante, et la Société canadienne des postes y sera très active. Il est temps de faire vos valises, et j'espère rencontrer beaucoup d'entre-vous au Centre de conventions d'Hamilton.

P.S. N'oubliez pas votre brosse-à-dents!

Editorial ...continued from page 153

our hobby unless commemoratives will also be available eventually. Portugal also has introduced postage vending machine stamps.

So with special stamped envelopes, the R.P.O.'s, the spread of local posts, the use of internet labels to get good used stamps you will be forced to use " do-it-yourself" philatelic means or rely ever more on your local dealer. But consider the latter's fate as well. Dealer numbers have declined in the past decade and most postal administrations now sell not only their own national stamps but popular foreign ones as well. Because Canada Post does not charge a service fee on new issues, it is, therefore, cheaper for the U. S. collectors to get their own stamps from the National Philatelic Centre in Antigonish, rather than from the U. S. Postal Service. What will all this do to local dealers if the process spreads much further? No particular insight is needed to conclude that this will harm the business of many local dealers who have provided support to collectors.❑

Letters...continued from page 154

being destroyed indicating that these should have never been issued in such large quantities.

-30-

Dear Sir:

This is in response to your editorial in the January-February issue regarding the inundation of new issues by the post offices of the world including Canada and the USA.

Any reader of the *American Philatelist* or *Linn's* has been flooded over the years with letters to the editor decrying the multitude of issues in the USA and threatening to quit collecting etc. My view have changed quite a bit over the years. Initially it was one of complete indifference. Later it became a combination of thankfulness that I had long ago stopped my subscription to Canada Post for matched plate blocks and an inward antagonist to all these postal administrations for foisting their superfluous issues on collectors.

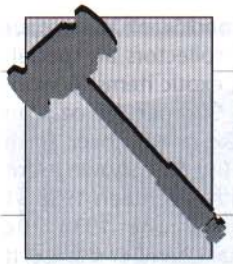
I've now reached a third level of attitude which is much more benign. Perhaps it is a result of having seen my grandchildren, when they were a little younger, having so much fun with stickers and other labels - collecting, trading, and mounting. What are these new issues, aside from the fact that, at least in Canada and the USA, they can always be used at face value for postage. They are just the same stickers, with a higher price tag. If people want to collect these for whatever pleasure they get, why not. The only concern I have is from those promotions which give any impression that they are going to appreciate in value in the future. Here we should be diligent and make people aware that while they can have fun with these collection, they will get either very little of nothing back on attempted resale. In this respect they are just like the stickers.

As far as the postal administrations are concerned, I now fully support their efforts. Their argument that it attracts new people and helps the hobby grow, may have some merit. As an exhibitor however it has it's other positive effects and this applies to all other "advanced and specialized collectors". Postal Administrations spend a great deal of money supporting the hobby. Aside from booth rentals at show and postal museums, just look at something like the financial and personnel support at CAPEXs. They wouldn't be justified in doing this if they could not get a return by selling their new issues. So people buying all these souvenir sheets, first day covers, matched plate blocks, etc., pout money into Canada Post coffers and they in return give us some back by their support which we very much need. I have no problem now with this.

Sincerely,

Murray Heifetz, Don Mills

More Letters...on page 200



Under the Hammer

....with Dean Mario

Postal history today is one of the fastest growing specialties within philatelic circles. On February 28, 1998 Ron Leith Philatelic Auctions held a public auction of mostly covers and postal history in conjunction with the "Great West Stamp Show" in Richmond, B.C. From the activity within the sale room one gathered that it was an excellent sale, with competition high for choice postal history. The front cover of the sale catalogue featured a wonderful example (in colour) of one such item. Lot 1096 contained an unusual "Berlin to Berlin" re-directed cover from Canada to Germany, then to Switzerland and back to Canada! The attractive eye-catching cover was franked with three countries' stamps in 1896. Estimated at $5,000 plus, the cover sold for $3,737.50 (prices include a 15 per cent buyer's fee, stamps offered unreserved, covers/postal history 50 per cent of estimate reserve).

The sale contained 266 lots of Canadian, BNA, and worldwide stamps in the first session. Canada was well-represented and lot 109 contained a fresh fine mint copy of the 1897 $1 Lake Jubilee estimated at the *Unitrade Canada Specialized Catalogue* value of $600. It went to a new owner for $287.50. Separate mint F/VF sets of the 1903-08 Edward VII issue (lot 118, *Unitrade* value estimate of $1,525) and the 1908 Quebec Tercentenary issue (lot 119, *Unitrade* value estimate of $630), each sold for $345. U.S. stamp offerings included lot 148, an 1845 5¢ Black Washington, N.Y. Postmaster Provisional in used VF condition. A *Scott Catalogue* value of $750 was indicated and the stamp realized $460. A single VF used example of the 1856 5¢ Deep Red Brown Jefferson issue sold for $747.50 against a *Scott* value of $1,570 (lot 154).

The auction firm's specialty is postal history and this sale contained hundreds of Canadian, BNA, U.S., and worldwide stampless, rate, illustrated, military, air-mail covers and picture postcards. An amazing five-colour franked cover from Toronto to San Francisco paying the 1908 25¢ 10 oz. letter rate and registration fee with Quebec Tercentenary stamps, was found in lot 1156. Estimated at $500 plus, the cover reached $805. An unusual modern cover, dated 1969, from Vancouver to Bahrain (scarce destination) was featured in lot 1303. The cover paid the 50¢ airmail rate with a 1969 50¢ Suzor-Côté "Harvest Field" single. Estimated at $40 plus, it went to a new home for $63.25. Modern exotic Canadian covers are highly sought-after today.

An interesting U.S. item was offered in lot 1674. It was a 1932 trust company parcel tag paying the $14.07 registered money-packet rate from Cleveland to Canton, Ohio. Especially unusual was the part-payment by two 1918 $5 Green and Black Franklin singles. Estimated at $1,500 plus, the tag sold for $1,035.

The firm's second sale is scheduled for September 1998. Consignment information, or the full-colour auction catalogue, can be obtained from Ron Leith Philatelic Auctions, Box 430, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 5Z5, telephone (604) 795-2240, fax (604) 795-2324.

continued on page 158

Bidders fiercely competed for many fine items in the January 30-31, 1998 sale conducted by Charles G. Firby Auctions. The Michigan firm once again offered buyers a selection of rare Canada, BNA, and worldwide material.

Canadian booklet collectors and Admiral Issue specialists were keen to acquire lot 148 containing the rare 1¢ Yellow, 2¢ Yellow-Green, and 3¢ Carmine tête-bêche imperforate booklet panes. Although the 2¢ pane was said to have "dirty gum", the lot sold for $25,300 (prices include the 15 per cent buyer's premium). The estimate for this lot, one of only seven sets in existence, was $25,000. A used VF 1935 10¢ Mountie single with the scarce "broken leg" variety (lot 207) found a home for $517.50 (estimated at $800). Lot 211 (illustrated) held another rare item, a VF NH imperf pair of the 1938 $1 Chateau Ramesay. Estimated at $3,250, the pair sold for $4,025. An OG NH copy of the 1959 5¢ St. Lawrence Seaway with inverted centre (lot 214) reached $5,750 against an estimate of $10,500.



A stunning modern error was found in lot 230. It contained a full OG NH sheet of 25 of the 1994 $1 Yorkton Court House with the black inscription shifted upwards, resulting in a severe writing misplacement with the bottom row completely missing. It nearly sold for the estimate of $5,000 and went to a bidder for $4,887.50. An impressive full sheet of fifty with OG and hinge-reinforced of the 1875 2¢ Vermilion Registered Letter Stamp was featured in lot 741. Complete with the printer's inscription on all four sides, the sheet realized 2,587.50 (estimated at $2,750).

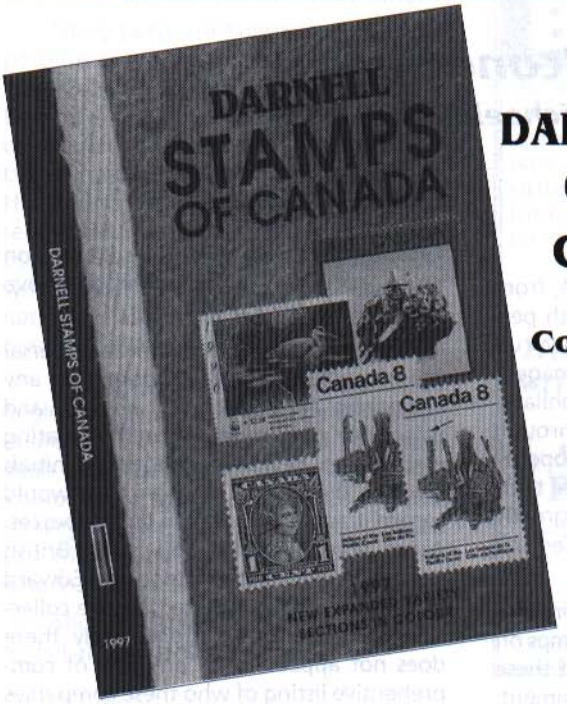
Postal history was well-represented in the sale too. The Walter R. Plomish Commercial Airmail and Scroll Issue cover collections provided collectors an specialists with an array of exotic items. A wonderfully scarce 1941 90¢ per 1/2 oz. Pan Am Clipper rate (19x rated) cover from Ottawa to Australia (lot 597, shown as lot 613) was franked with seventeen 1938 $1 Chateau Ramesay and one 1938 10¢ Memorial Chamber stamps. It sold for $402.50 with an estimate of $170. An unusual thematic collection of black-bordered Canadian and BNA "mourning" postal history entitled the "T.G. Reaper" Collection was also featured. Lot 1124 (ex. Nickle) contained a wonderful 1862 soldier's letter rate cover from Toronto to England. It was franked with two 1859 1¢ Rose Victoria singles. Estimated at $1,300, this rare item sold for $1,840. The firm offered a photocopied record of the collection for $25. Charles G. Firby Auctions can be reached at 6695 Highland Road, Suite #107, Waterford, MI USA 48327, telephone (248) 666-5333 and fax (248) 666-5020. The firm usually places its sales on the Internet's World Wide Web on the Stamp Auction Central website. The firm's address is: http://www2.interpath.net/devcomp/auctions.htm

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Michael Millar, FRPSC

Perfins, and all that.

I'm sure that all collectors have, from time to time, picked up stamps with perforated initials and have passed them up because they appear to be damaged. However, there is a large body of philatelists out there who eagerly go through dealers "garbage" boxes in the hope of finding some gem that will enhance their collection. These are often at a greatly reduced price because of the perfed initials.

Many well-known Canadian institutions and companies used these stamps on their mail in days gone by. Some of these were - OHMS for the Federal Government; LA for the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario; CNR and CPR for the two main railways; and BT or BTC for the Bell Telephone Company.

The object behind the idea of perforated initials in the stamps a government or company used was to prevent fraudulent use of postage by employees. At the time that my wife and I were married - nearly forty years ago - she was working for the Bell Telephone Company in the business office in Barrie. The Barrie office in the late 1950's did not have a postage meter, but used to requisition postage stamps from Bell's Ontario Head Office in Toronto both for their own use and to supply the requirements of the smaller satellite offices in the Barrie area. These stamps were all perforated, during my wife's time, with BT in 12mm high letters. Commemoratives as well as regular definitives were so treated. I have a cover from the Bell office in Barrie dated 25 January 1957, franked with the 5¢ Fire Prevention issue, Scott 364, perfed with the above noted 12mm BT.

Nowadays, with the almost universal use of postage meters, I doubt that any companies are still buying postage and using their old Sloper's Patent Perforating machine to perforate the firm's initials through the stamps. I'm sure they would regard it as a waste of time and resources. As an accumulator of low value British stamps, mainly of the Victoria and Edward VII periods, I have acquired a large collection of GB perfins. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any sort of comprehensive listing of who these companies were, which is most frustrating.

Some are quite easy to figure out, the railway companies for example, especially if the stamp happens to be perforated GNR and has a Knebworth Station / Herts. cancellation. I was once able to produce a two-page essay based on a 1d red perfed SALT. This stamp had been used at the premises founded by Sir Titus Salt, a Victorian industrialist, who had made his fortune by devising a process for spinning alpaca wool from South America. Salt was also a philanthropist who used a great deal of his wealth to establish a company town for his workers at Saltaire in West Yorkshire.

But who, I wonder, was VG / & Co. perfed in two lines into an Edward 1d, postmarked Registered / Throgmorton Avenue E.C., and dated 27 June 1908? Not Vinnie Green surely. Who was McM in Hertford in 1910; or CB / B in Birmingham in 1909; or JW in Lancaster in 1881? In the

absence of a catalogue we'll never know.

Fancy perfs are known as well, with patterns as well as initials. I have one on a GV 1/2d postmarked Ormskirk / Lancs, 9 December 1932 that has a very large vertical combination perf with H at the top, Ltd at the bottom with the bottom of the H joined to the t with a series of perfs in a semi-circular pattern and with a small o in the centre of the pattern, all very neat and symmetrical. This is another of those fascinating philatelic byways that so enrich this great hobby of ours.

It is an area that has been rather neglected, although there is a handbook published in England many years ago that deals with the subject in general terms, insofar as the British perfs are concerned. So why not give it a try, and good luck to you. Maybe you'll even be able to tell me who VG / & Co. was.

Michael Millar can be reached via e-mail at mmillar@cois.on.ca

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The 75th Anniversary of the Irish Postage Stamp: The Two Penny Map Stamp

BY CHARLES J. G. VERGE

December 6, 1997 was the 75th anniversary of the Irish Free State's first postage stamp: a green definitive (Sc. 68) denominated two pence (2d.) and showing the map of Ireland (Fig. 1). Before that, stamps of Great Britain were used (Fig. 2) from 1840 until February 17, 1922. On that date the current British definitives were overprinted in Gaelic Rialtar Sealadac na héireann which stood for Government Provisional of Ireland (Fig. 3). The Provisional Government had come into being January 14, 1922.



Fig. 1 Ireland's first stamp (Sc. 68) designed by James Ingram and issued December 6, 1922, the day of the beginning of the Irish Free State.



Fig. 2 One penny red (Sc. 20) used April 18, 1864 in Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland.



Fig. 3 IA British George V 2d. deep orange Type I (Sc.162) overprinted Government Provisional of Ireland.

Although the Post Office was nominally under the control of the Provisional Government, the use of British stamps was mandatory until February 17. Full responsibility for the Post Office was not transferred until April 1, 1922. Unoverprinted British stamps remained valid for use in Southern Ireland for the period February 17 to March 31, 1922. Properly dated covers of this period are sought after by collectors and can range in the several hundreds of dollars particularly if they combine an overprinted stamp with an unoverprinted one. On December 6, 1922, the Provisional Government gave way to the government of the Irish Free State.

The arrival of such a momentous day as was that which saw the emergence of the Irish Free State could not go unnoticed postally. The Provisional Government felt that it was appropriate that stamps be prepared for the new State. It was on February 1, 1922, that the Irish Free Press published a notice of a national competition for the design of a definitive series of postage stamps. However, Ireland was in the midst of a Civil War and stamps were not the first order of



Fig. 4 The remainder of the Irish Free State's first definitive series (Sc. 65-67 and 69-76).

business. Delays occurred and it looked highly unlikely that the series would be ready on time. The Government managed to get one of the stamps in its new definitive series out on December 6. This 2d.



Fig. 5 Booklet pane (Sc. 109a) of six 2d. (Sc. 109) watermarked 'e' upright.

stamp, and the rest of the long definitive series (Fig. 4), was to be in use, with a watermark change, for 46 years until a new Early Irish Art definitive series replaced it in 1968.

Post Office officials concentrated work on the 2d. stamp because that was then the value for the inland letter rate and the rate to Great Britain. This would be the stamp that would see the greatest usage over its life. It was available in sheet, booklet pane (Fig. 5) and coil (Fig. 6) formats. In fact, one of its coil versions is Ireland's rarest stamp (Sc. # 68b). By mid-1922, the Dublin press published the following announcement: "From among the thousands of designs for Irish Free State Stamps that have been submitted (Fig. 7), the Provisional Government has selected those shown . . . for further consideration." (Fig. 8)



Fig. 6 Used coil pair (Sc. 92).

Fig. 7 Unaccepted designs for the 2d. stamp. The designers were **a**) James A. Walker & Co. of Rath mines, Dublin; **b**) S. V. Baker, School of Art, Cork; **c**) R. A. S. Mac Allister, Donnybrook; **d**) Edward Dolan, Drumcondra; **e**) the only design to be submitted by an overseas artist, Noel F. Harrison, Winnipeg, Canada; **f**) Domhnall MacGiobúin, Cork; **g**) & **h**) Sean MacMurchadha, Dublin; **i**) William MacBride, The Craftworks, Dublin; **j**) Millicent Girling, Metropolitan School of Art, Dublin; **k**) Elizabeth A. Whitty, Waterford; **l**) Seán Mac an tSamraigh (John Somers), Dublin; and **m**) the name of the artist who submitted this design is unrecorded.



Above: 7a 7b



Above: 7g 7h 7i

Fig. 8
Designs selected by the Provisional Government for consideration for the first Irish definitive stamps











Today most scholars of early Irish stamps agree that the 2d. stamp is a definitive. This was not always the case even as late as 1975. In the American Philatelic Society's magazine, *The American Philatelist*[1], two eminent students of Irish philately, Malcolm O'Reilly and Perry Adams differed on their interpretation of the stamp's original status and production. Adams's contention was that the stamp, although printed in Dublin, was prepared entirely by the British. His view is that the dies and plates were rushed through The Royal Mint, the stamp paper originated in Kent and was gummed in London before being sent to Dublin. He also insists that the British crew was unable to correctly set the perforating machine in Dublin and that the stamps were sent to London, perforated and returned just in time for the issue date.

O'Reilly's view was that the 2d. stamp was a commemorative. Its first printing being done in London at Somerset House, the British government's printing works. He views the first printing as a commemorative because the Irish Government issued it as a single stamp on the day of the proclamation of the Irish Free State. He further believed that the "reissue, or Dublin Castle printing" mentioned by Adams, "took place in late December of 1922.". Whatever the right answer is, the original supply of the 2d. was quickly exhausted. British stamps continued to be overprinted. Now the overprint read Saorstát Éireann - Free State Ireland (Fig. 9). These were issued on December 11,



Fig. 9
Same stamp as in Fig. 3 (Sc. 162) now overprinted Free State Ireland.


7c


7d


7e


7f


7j


7k


7l


7m

1..O'Reilly, M. G., Perry Adams and J. J. Walsh, Ireland's First Postage Stamp of its Own in Chemi, James M., ed. The American Philatelist, Vol. 89, No. 4 (Whole No. 891), April 1975, p. 320.

1922. Overprinted stamps were to continue well into the fourth decade of the Century. In fact, the Seahorse George V high values (2/6, 5 and 10 shillings) continued to be overprinted until 1937 (Fig.10).



Fig. 10
SGreat Britain 5/ (Sc. 180) issued in 1919 and overprinted in 1925 for use in Ireland.

O'Reilly goes on to say that the December 6 stamps printed at Somerset House used paper made in Ireland and are "a beautiful deep sea green." They give the appearance of being "on chalky or coated paper." He states that the reissued stamps are a "deep-blue green and have a strong bluish tint when held to the sunlight." The telltale sign apparently is that, when soaked, the reissued stamps lose "the green appearance and tend toward blue." Later printings of the 2d. are more stable. The Dublin Castle printers stabilized the inks and while shades and paper difference should be expected in such a long running issue the color no longer runs. A genuine First Day Cover for this issue must be of the "deep sea green" color.

James Ingram of Glasnevin, a suburb of Dublin, prepared the design for the stamp. His design was also used for the one penny (Sc. 66 and 107) and one and a half penny (Sc. 67 and 108). They appeared for sale on the February 23 and February 2, 1923 respectively. They, and the 2d., were printed in sheets of 240 stamps consisting of two panes each containing 120 stamps 12 wide by 10 high. Inter-pane gutter pairs are known and command at least 20 times the price of a single. Stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN' were mainly distributed to other countries through the Universal Postal Union. Until 1937, paper watermarked 'se' with the letters intertwined and set diagonally in the paper was used. With the proclamation of a new Irish Constitution that year new stamp printings started to use a paper watermark with a series of diagonal 'e's (Sc. 109). An inverted and reversed watermarked is found on the 'se' watermarked paper while on the 'e' paper it is only found reversed. A variety of the stamp, on the 'se' paper, is called 'Storm of Lough Swilly' which are in fact some short transfers north of the island and below the letters I and R of Eire.

From about 1924, the 2d. was issued in coil rolls both vertical and horizontal. The vertical coils were made up in strips of ten stamps with a paper join between each strip while the horizontal coils had strips of 12 stamps with a paper join. The stamps were perforated on all four sides. Two 2d. experimental coils were also produced. The first, in November 1934, was issued with the two horizontal sides imperforate while the others were perf. 14 and on paper watermarked sideways (Sc. 92). These were soon withdrawn. A perf. 15 with the vertical sides imperforate was issued in 1935 (Sc. 68b). It is Ireland's rarest stamp (Fig. 11). A September 1995 monograph, *The Rare Coil*[2], by Joseph E. Foley shows that a strip of four, two pairs and 12 singles are known unused. Foley's monograph does not report the total number of used copies that exist although it is known that more than twenty-five have been recorded including some used strips. Finally only one copy on cover has ever been authenticated.



Fig. 11
Ireland's rarest stamp. The imperforate by perf. 15 coil (Sc. 68b).

All booklet panes of the 2d. contain six stamps and can be found on both the

2..Foley, Joseph E., Compiler, The Rare Coil, Riva, Maryland, Privately published by Joseph E. Foley, September 1995. 76pp.

'se' and 'e' watermarks. Special sheets of 264 stamps were used to prepare the booklets. They had half the booklet panes inverted resulting in half the panes having inverted watermarks. Therefore booklets, when assembled, could contain either type of watermarked pane or a mix of both. The panes are perforated all around but in the cutting of the booklets the perforations were usually clipped. The 'se' panes were produced between August 21, 1931 and 1940 and stitched into booklets with a face value of 2 shillings. Two numbers showing the year of issue and the serial number are found on booklet covers until 1964 when the use of serial numbers ceased. Later booklets (1950s and 60s) put the serial number first. Two penny 'se' watermarked panes are found in booklets having serial numbers 1 to 22 while the 'e' watermarked panes are in booklets with serial numbers 23 to 30. There was a change in the face value of the booklet in 1948 (serials 31-36) and 1966 (no serial number) to 2/6. Three shilling booklets (serials 43-44) were issued in 1962-63. Most booklets of the period had advertising and postal information interleaves and, sometimes, advertising on the covers as well.



Fig. 13
Fifty pence stamp (Sc. 804) showing Ireland's first stamp and issued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamps.

Ireland used reproductions of the stamp, mainly for stamp on stamp designs. In 1972, for the stamp's 50th anniversary a single stamp and a souvenir sheet (Fig. 12)-Ireland's first-were issued (Sc. 326 and 326a). Again, in 1990, for the 150th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, Ireland's 1922 2d. stamp reappeared. It was part of a montage on different Irish definitives found on the 50 pence (p.). value (Fig. 13). It was printed both in sheet format and in a Prestige booklet (Fig. 14) (Sc. 804, 804a & 804b).



Fig. 12 Souvenir sheet issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Ireland's first stamp (Sc. 326a)

This year it is again featured in a montage. It is silhouetted, on a 32p. stamp, against a photograph of the General Post Office. This new representation of Ireland's first stamp was issued August 27, 1997 as part of the four stamps 'Post Office Service to the Nation' phase of a three-phase commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the State. Twelve stamps were issued in



twelve stamps were reissued together in a limited edition State Anniversary Souvenir Sheetlet available only between December 6 and December 31, 1997 (Fig. 15).

If you are interested in the stamps of Ireland please contact the Philatelic Bureau, AN POST, General Post Office, Dublin 1, Ireland. Collectors of Ireland might wish to join the Eire Philatelic Association by contacting the Secretary, Michael J. Conway, 19 Pine Needle Drive, Shelton, CT 06484, USA. ❑

all celebrating, besides the Post Office, Democracy and State Institutions, Sport, Culture, Commerce and the Arts. The

Fig. 14 above
Prestige booklet on the History of Ireland's Postage which contains panes (Sc 804a & b) of the 50p. (Sc. 804) showing Ireland's first stamp (Sc. 68) with other definitives.

Fig. 15
Limited edition souvenir sheet celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Irish State. The 2d. map stamp is shown on the left stamp of the fifth row.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
CONVENTIONS

Our RPSC annual get-togethers are always enjoyable, full of good cheer and knowledgeable acquaintances. Through the courtesy of James Kraemer, FRPSC, I received this list of convention sites for the past 50 years. We would welcome information on the location of the first 18 annual conventions and hope that members will review the years before 1947 and advise him at 17 Commanche Drive, Nepean, ON. K2E 6E8 so the listing can be complete. Philatelists who collect our annual convention programs and banquet souvenirs should find this list helpful in assembling their material.

YEAR	CONVENTION NUMBER	LOCATION
1947	19th	Toronto, ON
1948	20th	Brantford, ON
1949	21st	Montreal, QC
1950	22nd	Toronto, ON
1951	23rd	Toronto (CAPEX), ON
1952	24th	London, ON
1953	25th	Toronto, ON
1954	26th	Kitchener, ON
1955	27th	Montreal, QC
1956	28th	Windsor, ON
1957	29th	Ottawa, ON
1958	30th	Victoria, BC
1959	31st	Sarnia, ON
1960	32nd	Kitchener, ON
1961	33rd	North Hatley, QC
1962	34th	Windsor, ON
1963	35th	Niagara Falls, ON
1964	36th	Edmonton, AB
1965	37th	Halifax, NS
1966	38th	Hamilton, ON
1967	39th	Ottawa, ON
1968	40th	Alexandra Bay, NY
1969	41st	Toronto, ON
1970	42nd	Winnipeg, MA
1971	43rd	Montebello, QC
1972	44th	Edmonton, AB
1973	45th	Toronto, ON
1974	46th	Winnipeg, MA
1975	47th	Quebec, QC
1976	48th	Philadelphia, PA
1977	49th	Vancouver, BC
1978	50th	Toronto (CAPEX), ON
1979	51st	Cambridge, ON
1980	52nd	Calgary, AB
1981	53rd	Dorval, QQ
1982	54th	Victoria, BC
1983	55th	Oakville, ON
1984	56th	Quebec, QC
1985	57th	Toronto, ON
1986	58th	Chicago, IL
1987	59th	Toronto (CAPEX), ON
1988	60th	Winnipeg, MA
1989	61st	Hamilton, ON
1990	62nd	Regina, SK
1991	63rd	Dorval, QC
1992	64th	Edmonton, AB
1993	65th	Ottawa, ON
1994	66th	Vernon, BC
1995	67th	Ste. Foy, QC
1996	68th	Toronto (CAPEX), ON
1997	69th	Calgary, AB
1998	70th	Hamilton, ON

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On Philatelic Literature Judging and Exhibitions

Part Three

by Michael O. Nowlan

The strength of any literature lies in its ability to endure, in its respect in the canon of a particular genre, and in its reliability years after its initial publication.

Stamp literature fits all of the above, notwithstanding there are aspects of every literature that are ephemeral or of limited long-term value. Newspapers, for example, report on news when it is news. In some instances, that news is significant to later research, but, for the most part, the daily items serve immediate needs.

Stamp or philatelic literature, then, has major works whose content is qualified, whose authority is renowned, and whose durability is legend.

How does philatelic literature gain its status? What are the rules whereby a title is approved in the hobby? Who determines a work is definitive? On what bases are such decisions made?

The questions may be answered by exhibition, critical examination and review, and continual use.

Philatelic literature exhibitions put titles to the test because they are subject to examination and critique by several voices (judges) who attest to strengths, weaknesses and specific value. Being subject to criticism is the key method a writer can use to assess his/her work. Critics of literature are those who make the evaluations based on knowledge of the subject and experience with the language and format. Many of the critics in philately are also the judges at exhibitions. They do not take their task lightly.

The critic must accept responsibility, be fair, and be realistic. My most valuable lessons in understanding my own writing often come from fair critiques. Long before I commenced writing about stamps, I submitted a manuscript to an educational publisher. The critique was a hard-hitting, thorough evaluation of my work. It shocked and angered me, but the fairness and the co-operative spirit with which it was written made me a better writer. The editor who judged that particular piece of work deserves much more credit than I ever gave her. We went on to work on several projects that were published and accepted for school use.

Since then, I have welcomed critiques of my work. It is easy, though, for writers to create smug little niches and feel they are the authority. That attitude can cripple. One personal critique of my philatelic writing by a judge gave me an insight whereby I have been able to improve, not only as a writer, but also as a judge. It is through accurately aimed criticism that one improves in or withdraws from the public forum of communication.

To write is to be open to criticism; to judge is to set direction for the acceptance or validity of a work.

The philatelic literature judge must serve three apprenticeships at accredited national shows in either Canada or the United States before certification is granted. The would-be judge must also have a record of writing and/or editing philatelic literature that satisfies the RPSC or APS judging committee, and attendance at a literature judging seminar is required.

Once qualified, judges in North America may work shows in either Canada or the United States on invitation of the respective show's judging committee.

Unlike philatelic exhibitions of which there are many, philatelic literature shows are few, so qualified judges do not get a lot of opportunity to practice their skills.

In North America, there are six regular shows, one of which is biennial. Most

international shows have a literature component which meant CAPEX '96 and PACIFIC 97 offered an additional literature opportunity in each of the last two years. They, of course, required judges with international qualifications.

Canada's national literature exhibitions, which commenced in 1991, are held every two years while five United States shows annually feature literature components.

To date, Canada's shows have been held in Ottawa in conjunction with ORAPEX. Although the venue may change, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is committed to the show. In fact, Canada's shows regularly attract a large number of entries. C1NPLE in 1991, for example, had 135 entries while the C2NPLE in 1993 drew an unprecedented 230 entries from over 24 countries. Although C4NPLE in 1997 drew only 87 entries, the number was large by most standards for a national show.

The largest United States show has been held in every year since 1977 as part of the American Philatelic Society STAMPSHOW which is held at a different location each year. Although STAMPSHOW 95 in St. Louis, Missouri had over 90 entries, the usual run for the APS show is in the 50 range.

Other U.S. shows are COLOPEX (since 1984) in Columbus, Ohio, CHICAGOPEX (since 1967) in Chicago, SESCAL (since 1978) in Los Angeles, and OKPEX (since 1996) in Oklahoma City. Some shows may have had literature competitions earlier, but the dates reflect commencement of continuous activity. At these shows, literature entries range from 25 - 50 with the average in the mid-30s.

Literature categories vary in some shows. Canada's literature exhibitions and the APS STAMPSHOW have the broadest range with each accepting handbooks, monographs, pamphlets, studies, catalogues other than auctions, newsletters and periodicals, and articles, series, or columns. There are some restrictions on the latter class.

Since 1997, APS also accepts electronic entries. It is a relatively new area of literature entry, so it challenges judges, and it will until firm guidelines are set.

SESCAL, COLOPEX, CHICAGOPEX, and OKPEX have two common categories - handbooks/special studies and periodicals. These shows do not consider annually issued or commercial catalogues, nor do they accept columns or articles. The specifications suggest entries must be an intensive treatment of philatelic subjects involving research beyond a generalized catalogue. Two years ago, SESCAL introduced a section on electronic publications which is "designed for handbooks, research studies, specialized catalogs or databases that have been published for use on personal computers." Software prepared primarily as an inventory is not acceptable.

In 1996, OKPEX took a daring and bold step by adding Auction Catalogues as a category, which appears to have been successful with continuance in 1997 and 1998. Paul Tyler of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who has been one of the judges, says one of the considerations for including auction catalogues "was the importance of the catalogue as a future reference." A conclusion the judges made after assessing the first OKPEX catalogue auction was that all catalogues may not offer great reference possibilities, but they should be held in a library for "future reference."

With so few literature shows, philatelic writers have a limited opportunity to exhibit their wares. Those whose writing is solely for journals and periodicals are even more restricted. Nonetheless, philatelic literature is still an infant in the exhibition parade, so time may change this.

It is important to note here that some annual RPSC shows do include a literature category, but there are rarely more than 10 entries, more frequently fewer than five. ❑

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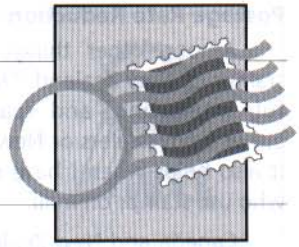
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Jim's Stamp Corner

by Jim Measures



Chinese New Year

While most of us will agree that New Years Day is January 1st, there are millions of people in the world who follow the lunar calendar and celebrate New Years in February. What is commonly called "Chinese New Year" is based on the cycles of the moon and therefore arrives on different dates each year, although it is usually during our month of February.

According to popular Chinese wisdom, the animal that rules the year in which we are born has a strong influence on our life because, according to an old saying "it is the animal that is hidden in our heart".

This tradition has its roots in Buddhism. Legend has it that when Buddha began to realize that he had to depart from life on earth in order to attain Nirvana, he summoned all the animals of the earth to appear before him so as to be in contact with the entire universe for the last time. Only twelve of them responded. The first to arrive was a Rat followed by a Buffalo and a Tiger, then came a Hare followed by a Dragon and a Snake, finally came the Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, and the Dog. The last to arrive, closing the march was the Pig.

Buddha, in order to thank these animals for having responded to his call, honoured each of them by dedicating a year to them in the order in which they had presented themselves. Thus, one can understand why the year took on the character and characteristics of the animal it was attributed to, and how it also determines the character of persons born during that year.

The Lunar calendar was introduced in China by Emperor Huang Ti during the 61st year of his reign. That would be the year 2637 BC on our calendar. Since that time Chinese people have celebrated the new year with feasting and dancing wherever they are. This includes the Chinese people who now live in Canada.

Many countries issue stamps each year to honour the Chinese New Year. These stamps are very interesting as they usually deal with the subject in a party or humourous manner. My personal favourite is the Tokelau "Year of the Pig" stamp of 1995.

Tokelau is made up of several small islands and fences are not required to keep livestock in. The pigs are allowed to run loose and they have learned to catch fish in the shallow water. These "Fishing Pigs" may be unique in the world and are honoured on the souvenir sheet issued for Chinese New Year. I wonder if Buddha ever saw a Fishing Pig.

Christmas stamps are a popular topic for Christians, similarly Chinese New Year stamps reflect the Buddhist traditions. This is one small way that philately can help to build understanding among people. Buddhists can collect Christmas stamps and Christians can explore the wonders of the orient, including Fishing Pigs.

Postage Rate Reduction

Among other things, I collect the stamps of New Zealand. They are beautiful, interesting, and readily available either from dealers or New Zealand Post. It also helps when I have relatives in NZ who use stamps on mail.

Canada and New Zealand have a lot in common including our Post Offices. They are both privately run Crown corporations. My dealings with New Zealand Post this past year have been very interesting. First and most surprising was on October 2, when they actually reduced postal rates for domestic mail. Yes; they cut the rate for a letter from 45 cent to 40 cent. This meant a flurry of new 40 cent stamps to replace the similar 45 cent issues. Wouldn't it be nice if Canada Post were to do the same.

In Canada we have been told for years that postal operations are a losing operation and need to be subsidized by government. In New Zealand the government does not subsidize them yet New Zealand Post is making such a profit that on July 1, 1996 they gave a "FREE MAIL" day. For one day any letter addressed by hand (not typed or printed) would be delivered free. This was in recognition of the fact that they had a profit of $51 million in 1995 and this was a dividend to the people of NZ who are in fact the shareholders of New Zealand Post. How long will it be until Canada Post pays a dividend?

A further "interesting" development in my dealings with post offices came when I sent an order to NZ Post for a book of stamps. It cost $77 NZ or $69.30 Can. It arrived in good order and had $4.85 GST owing. Now I don't like the GST; and I think that it is unfair to charge it on either stamps or books especially when purchased outside Canada; but this is the law and I admit that the $4.85 was owing. When I went to the Clifford Post Office I was quite prepared to pay the GST. Imagine my surprise when I was required to pay Canada Post a $5 fee in addition to the $4.85 GST. Upon enquiry I was advised that in Canada the post office charges a fee of $5 to collect the GST even if the GST owing is as low as 5 cents. Can you blame me for feeling that I had been robbed by my own government.

I'm not one to hold a grudge; but I do have a long memory. I am sure that with policies like this Canada Post will soon be making profits far higher than New Zealand Post's $51 million per year so I will be getting a dividend soon. I've got my pencil sharpened ready to write to all my friends and relatives on that "FREE MAIL" day that is coming. What do you think? Am I dreaming in technicolour? Maybe – Maybe not. Perhaps postal rates will really be reduced but I won't hold my breath.❑



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GREATER TORONTO STAMP SHOW
EXPOSITION DE TIMBRES DU TORONTO MÉTROPOLITAIN

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SHOW DATES AND HOURS OF OPERATION

October 16 octobre, 1998	11:00 am to 7:00 pm (19h)
October 17 octobre, 1998	10:00 am to 6:00 pm (18h)
October 18 octobre, 1998	10:00 am to 4:00 pm (16h)

Admission is FREE / Entrée gratuite

JUDGES / JUGES

Charles J. G. Verge, Chair
Alan Hanks
John M. Hotchner
Peter P. McCann
David Piercey
William G. Robinson
Grégoire Teyssier
Ann M. Triggle
Paul E. Tyler

Rules and Regulations

1 The Greater Toronto Stamp Show and AAPE Convention is organized by the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. It is sponsored by Canada Post Corporation, The RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation and The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. It will take place at the Queen Elizabeth Building and Theatre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario, Canada from Friday October 16, 1998 to Sunday October 18, 1998.

2 The exhibition is open to all collectors regardless of philatelic affiliation who conform to the rules of this prospectus. All material exhibited must be owned by the person(s) whose name(s) appear on the official entry form. Exhibits with dual ownership are only eligible if the two or more individuals are husband and wife or parent and child. The signature of a parent/guardian is required on a youth's entry form.

3 Exhibits that have been purchased intact may not be exhibited for a period of two years from the date of purchase unless the exhibit is substantially altered by the addition of new material or new text.

4 An entry form for each exhibit, along with the entry fee payable by cheque in US or Canadian $ or by Visa must be mailed to the Executive Director, CSDA, P.O. Box 1123, Adelaide Street P.O., Toronto, ON, CANADA M5C 2K5 to arrive by August 29, 1998. No entry fee will be refunded after acceptance of an exhibit. An exhibitor may submit as many entries as he/she wishes provided a separate entry form is provided for each entry. Entries will be reviewed and notification of acceptance will be made as received. The organizers and sponsors reserve the right to refuse any exhibit. All fees paid will be refunded in case of non-acceptance of an exhibit.

5 Exhibits may be entered in any one of four classes: One-Frame (competitive), One-Frame (Fun in Philately - non-competitive), National Class & National Class-Youth. The AAPE Youth Champion of Champion class is by invitation only.

6 The adult entry fee is $20 CDN or $15 US per single frame entered. The adult entry fee for the National Class is $10 CDN or $8 US per frame. No single exhibit in the National Class may be larger than ten (10) frames. Youth exhibits in the One-Frame Class and in the National Class -Youth are free of charge. Each youth exhibitor may enter only one exhibit per class. Exhibits in the National Class-Youth are restricted to five (5) frames. Youth collectors are defined as young people who have not reached their 22nd birthday by January 1, 1999.

7 Exhibits in the One-frame Class will be judged using the standards developed by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) which are available on request from the Executive Director, CSDA. Exhibits in the National Class will be judged using the standards applied by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) which uses the American Philatelic Society's (APS) *Manual of Philatelic Judging, 3rd edition* or later as its guidelines. Exhibits in all classes will be judged by a panel of nine (9) individuals accredited by The RPSC or the APS.

8 One-Frame exhibits will be judged based on six (6) levels of awards. There will be awards for the best One-frame exhibit in each section (Topical/Thematic, Postal History, Individual Country and Specialty/Special Studies) and a Grand and Reserve Grand awards for the best two (2) One-Frame exhibits. National Class and National Class-Youth exhibits will be judged on five (5) levels of awards. There will be a Grand and Reserve Grand awards for the best two exhibits in the class. Society and Association special awards will be available. Decisions of the Jury are final.

9 Each frame measures 36" x 48" and is divided into four rows, each 12" high. Each frame will hold 16 pages 9" x 12" (23cm x 29cm). Each album page must be inserted into a transparent protective sleeve, envelope or covering and should bear progressive numbers, preferably on the reverse side to indicate the order in which the pages are to be mount-

ed. Any exhibit with large size or odd-sized pages must be mounted and dismounted by the exhibitor or his/her agent.

10 Exhibitors should submit ten (10) copies (not more than two pages) of a summary/synopsis and/or title page with a plan, to be distributed to the judges to assist them in their preparation for evaluation of the exhibit.

11 American exhibitors, if not attending personally, should send their exhibits by USPS to the American Commissioner, Mrs. Ann Triggle, 4855 Spaulding, Clarence, NY 14031, USA. Mrs. Triggle can be reached by e-mail <atriggle@acsu.buffalo.edu>, by telephone at (716) 759-7185 or by FAX at (716) 759-7185. Mrs. Triggle should receive exhibits no later than Friday, October 10, 1998. Exhibits mailed to Mrs. Triggle must be forwarded prepaid. The preferred method for mailed exhibits is USPS Express Mail. All exhibits to be returned by mail must include return postage from Clarence, New York to the exhibitor and should be provided with the entry form and fee. (See #4 above).

12 Canadian and other exhibitors, if not attending personally, may send their exhibits and their frame fees directly to Andrew D. Parr, Executive Director, CSDA, c/o Parr & Associates, Two Carlton Street, Suite 1304, Toronto, ON CANADA M5B 1J3. Mr. Parr can be reached by e-mail at <aparr@parrassoc.com>, by telephone at (416) 979-3335 or by FAX at (416) 979-1144. Exhibits should be received by Mr. Parr no later than Friday, October 10, 1998. Exhibits mailed to Mr. Parr must be forwarded prepaid. An amount for postage for return of the exhibit by mail or the appropriate fee if the exhibit is to be forwarded back by other means from Toronto, Ontario to the exhibitor should be provided with the entry form and fee.

13 Personally delivered exhibits will be accepted at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 1998.

14 No exhibit will be removed from the frames until the exhibit area is cleared of all visitors after the close of the exhibition on Sunday, October 18, 1998. Exhibitors will be assisted in dismounting their exhibits. No travel plans should be made which require the exhibitor or agent leaving the exhibit hall prior to 6 p.m.

15 Owners must provide their own insurance. All reasonable care will be taken to ensure the safety of the exhibits; however, no responsibility may be attached to the organizers or sponsors of the Exhibition.

16 No responsibility, whether as the result of negligence or otherwise, shall attach to the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association, The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the Greater Toronto Stamp Show, Andrew Parr & Associates Management Services Inc., The RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada or The municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, O&Y/SMG Canada, the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place or the National Trade Centre, nor to their directors, officers, members, employees or voluntary or paid assistants, the Organizers, members of the Jury or delegates of any of the preceding, for any loss of, or damage to an exhibit, dealers' stock or other property, arising from any cause whatsoever. The laws of the Province of Ontario shall be applicable in all matters arising hereunder and the Courts of the Province of Ontario shall have exclusive jurisdiction to determine such matters.

17 The organizers reserve the right to amend these rules. The decisions of the organizers are final on all questions that may arise concerning the Exhibition, other than Jury decisions.

18 The signature of an exhibitor on the Entry Form shall be deemed to imply acceptance of these Regulations. In the event of deviations attributable to differences in the various language version of these Regulations, the English version is binding.

For further information contact Andrew D. Parr, by e-mail at **<aparr@parrassoc.com>**, by telephone at (416) 979-3335 or by FAX at (416) 979-1144.

GREATER TORONTO STAMP SHOW
EXPOSITION DE TIMBRES DU TORONTO MÉTROPOLITAIN
Queen Elizabeth Building & Theatre
Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
October 16, 17, 18 octobre 1998
Entry Form - Feuille d'inscription

❒ Mr./M ❒ Mrs./Mme ❒ Miss/Mlle _____
Last Name / Nom de famille – First Name / Prénoms

Address/Adresse _____

Street/Rue _____ Apt. _____

City/Ville _____

Province/State _____ Postal Code / Code postal / Zip Code _____

Telephone/Téléphone _____ Facsimile/Télécopieur _____

RPSC Member/Membre SRPS: ❒ Yes, Number: _____

Membre AAPE Member: ❒ Yes, Number: _____

Membre APS Member: ❒ Yes, Number: _____

Other Philatelic Memberships:
Autre sociétés philatéliques: _____

Title of exhibit / Titre de la collection: _____

Short Description (20 words) / Brève description de la collection (20 mots):

_____

_____

Please indicate the class in which this exhibit is being entered (Choose only one):
Veuillez indiquer la classe dans laquelle la collection est présentée (une seulement):

❒ One Frame / Un cadre
❒ One Frame, Fun in Philately / Un cadre, plaisir de la philatélie
❒ National Class / Classe nationale
❒ Youth – Date of Birth / Jeunesse – date de naissance

Number of Frames: / Nombre de cadres: _____
Number of pages: / Nombre de pages: _____
Dimensions: / Dimensions: _____ X _____

Classification for single frame exhibits / Classification des collections d'un cadre

- ❒ Topical – Thematic/Thématique par sujet
- ❒ Postal History/Histoire postale
- ❒ By Country/Par pays
- ❒ Specialty Collection – Special studies (cutting across several countries, geographic areas or worldwide)
  Collection spéciale – Études philatéliques (plusieur pays, aire géographique ou mondial)

Are you planning to attend the show: ❒ Yes ❒ No

Method of delivery: ❒ Personal/Collectionneur ❒ Mail/Poste ❒ Courier/Messageries
Livraison ❒ American Commissioner, Ann M. Triggle
❒ Agent (name and telephone / Nom et téléphone) _____

Method of return: ❒ Personal/Collectionneur ❒ Mail/Poste ❒ Courier/Messageries
Retour: ❒ American Commissioner, Ann M. Triggle
❒ Agent (name and telephone / Nom et téléphone) _____

Continued on reverse / Verso

FEES/FRAIS

Number of Frames / Nombre de cadres	Class / Classe	Unit Cost / Coût par cadre	Total Fees / Frais Totaux
1	One Frame / Un cadre	$20.00 CDN / $15.00 US	$
	National Class / Classe nationale	$10.00 CDN / $8.00 US	$
	Youth / Jeunesse	No Charge / Sans Frais	$0.00
IMPORTANT	Return Postage / Frais de retour		$
Total fee enclosed / Total des frais ci-joint:			**$**

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❒ Cheque Enclosed (made payable to the CSDA) / Chèque joint (payable à l'ACNTP)

❒ Please charge my fees to my VISA card.
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Name as Appears on Card / Nom tel qu'inscrit sur las carte

Card Number / Numéro de la carte:

Expires / Date d'expiration:

Signature

I have read and will comply with all rules and regulations for exhibiting at the Greater Toronto Stamp Show. I understand that no address will be listed in the program, so you have my permission to:

❒ List my name/Inscrire mon nom; or/ou ❒ List me anonymously as/ m'inscrire sous un pseudonyme:

I, the undersigned, undertand that I will be responsible for insuring my exhibit. I will not hold the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, The RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation, or the National Trade Centre, Board of Governors of Exhibition Place, Olympia and York or Andrew Parr & Associates Management Services Inc., their Directors, officers, members, employees, or agents liable for loss of or damage to this exhibit.

J'ai lu et j'accept les règlements concernant la participation des collections à l'Exposition de timbres du Toronto Métropolitain. Je suis informé qu'aucune adresse ne sera publiée dans le programme. En conséquence vous avez ma permission pour y:

Je, le (la) sous-signé(e) comprends que je suis responsable pour les frais d'assurance de ma collection. Je ne tiendrai pas responsable l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbre-poste, l'American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, La Société royale de philatélie du Canada, la Fondation de recherche philatélique SRPC, le National Trade Centre. Le Comité de direction d'Exhibition Place, Olympia et York ou Andrew Parr & Associates Management Services, Inc., leurs directeurs, officiers, membres, employé(e)s ou agent responsable pour la perte de ou les dommages à la collection.

Date

Signature

If Youth is Under Age 18 / Si le participant a moins de 18 ans:

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature
Signature du parent ou du tuteur (de la tutrice)

Return to / Postez à:
CSDA / ACNTP
P.O Box / C.P. 1123,
Adelaide Street Post Office / B.P. rue Adélaide
Toronto, ON
M5C 2K5 Canada
Deadline for receipt is:
Date de réception des formulaires:
August 29 août, 1998

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Règlements

1 L'exposition de timbres du Toronto mé tropolitain et le Congrés de l'AAPE sont organisés par l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste (ACNTP) et l'American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. L'exposition est parrainé par La société canadienne des postes, la SRPC Fondation de recherche philatélique et la Société royale de philatélie du Canada, et se déroulera au Queen Elizabeth Building and Theatre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, du vendredi 16 octobre au dimanche 18 octobre 1998.

2 L'exposition est ouverte è tous les collectionneurs qui se conforment au présent règlement, quelles que soient leurs affiliations philatéliques. Toutes les pièces exposées doivent être la propriété de la ou des personne(s) dont le nom apparaèt sur le formulaire officiel d'inscription. L'appartenance é de multiples propriétaires est acceptée s'il s'agit d'un couple marié ou de parent et enfant. Tout formulaire d'un participant junior doit être signé d'un parent ou tuteur.

3 Les collections achetées intactes ne peuvent être exposées de nouveau pendant une période de deux ans é partir de la date d'achat, é moins qu'elles n'aient été altérées de maniére conséquente par l'addition d'élément nouveaux ou d'un nouveau texte.

4 Il est nécessaire d'envoyer un formulaire d'inscription pour chaque collection, ainsi que les droits d'inscription, payables par chéque en dollars américains ou canadiens ou par Visa, au Directeur administratif de l'ACNTP, C.P. 1123, B.P. rue Adélaide, Toronto, ON, CANADA M5C 2K5, en s'assurant que le tout parvienne é l'ACNTP au plus tard le 29 aovt 1998. Aucuns droits d'inscription ne seront remboursés aprés acceptation d'une collection. Un exposant peut présenter autant de demandes qu'il ou elle le désire, é condition de remplir un formulaire par piéce d'exposition. Les droits d'inscription seront vérifiés et un avis d'acceptation sera envoyé dés qu'ils auront peréus. Les organisateurs et commanditaires se réservent le droit de refuser toute collection. Tous droits d'inscription payés seront remboursés en cas de refus d'une collection.

5 Les collections peuvent entrer dans l'une des quatre catégories suivantes : Cadre simple (compétition), Cadre simple (dilettantisme philatélique - hors compétition), Classe nationale et Classe nationale-Junior. Le championnant junior AAPE est uniquement sur invitation.

6 Les droits d'inscription par adulte sont de 20 $ can. ou 15 $ US par cadre simple. Les droits d'inscription par adulte pour la Classe nationale sont de 10 $ can. ou de 8 $ US par cadre. Aucune collection de la Classe nationale ne peut contenir plus de dix (10) cadres. Les collections Junior (Cadre simple et Classe nationale) sont sans frais. Tout exposant junior ne peut inscrire qu'une seule piéce d'exposition par classe. Toute collection de Classe nationale-Junior est limitée é cinq (5) cadres. Les collectionneurs junior sont, par définition, agés de moins de 22 ans au 1er janvier 1999.

7 Les collections Cadre simple seront évaluées selon les normes de l'American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), qui peuvent être envoyées sur simple demande auprés du Directeur exécutif de l'ACNTP. Les collections de Classe nationale sont évaluées selon les normes de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada (SRPC), qui s'inspire de la 3e édition ou édition plus récente du manuel d'évaluation philatélique de l'American Philatelic Society (APS). Les collections de toutes les classes seront évaluées par un jury de neuf (9) membres accrédité par la SRPC ou l'APS.

8 Les collections Cadre unique seront évaluées selon six (6) niveaux de prix. Il y aura un prix pour la meilleure collection Cadre unique dans chaque section (thématique, histoire postale, pays individuel et spécialité/études spéciales), ainsi qu'un grand prix et un second grand prix pour les deux (2) meilleures collections de la catégorie Cadre unique. Les collections de Classe nationale et Classe nationale-Junior sont évaluées selon cinq (5) niveaux de prix. Il y aura un grand prix et un second prix pour les deux meilleures collections de chaque classe. Des prix spéciaux de sociétés et d'associations seront aussi distribués. Les décisions du jury sont sans appel.

9 Chaque cadre mesure 36 x 48 po et est divisé en quatre rangs de 12 po de haut chacun. Chaque cadre contient 16 pages de 9 x 12 pó (23 x 29 cm). Chaque page de la collection doit être insérée dans une pochette, enveloppe ou couverture protective transparente et doit être numérotée, de maniére préférable au verso et dans un ordre croissant pour indiquer l'ordre dans lequel les pages doivent être présentées. Toute collection comportant des pages de dimensions plus grandes ou différentes doit être installée et démontée par l'exposant ou son agent.

10 Les exposants doivent remettre dix (10) exemplaires (de deux pages au maximum) d'un résumé et/ou d'une page titre avec un plan, qui seront remis aux membres du jury afin de les aider é préparer l'évaluation de la collection.

11 S'ils ne viennent pas personnellement, les exposants des états-Unis sont invités é envoyer leurs collections par messagerie USPS é Ann Triggle, Commissaire américain, 4855 Spaulding, Clarence, NY 14031, é.-U. Madame Triggle peut être contactée par courrier électronique é <atriggl@acsu.buffalo.edu>, par téléphone au (716) 759-7185 ou par télécopieur au (716) 759-7185. Les collections doivent lui parvenir avant le vendredi 10 octobre 1998, par envoi préaffranchi. Il est préférable d'envoyer vos collections par courrier express USPS. Toute collection devant être renvoyée par courrier doit contenir l'affranchissement nécessaire de retour é partir de Clarence, New York é son propriétaire, affranchissement qui sera envoyé en même temps que le formulaire et les droits d'inscription. (Voir paragraphe 4 ci-dessus.)

12 S'ils ne viennent pas personnellement, les exposants canadiens ou autres peuvent envoyer leurs collections ainsi que leurs droits d'inscription directement é Andrew D. Parr, Directeur exécutif de l'ACNTP, c/o Parr & Associates, Two Carlton Street, Suite 1304, Toronto, ON CANADA M5B 1J3. Monsieur Parr peut être contacté par courrier électronique é <aparr@parrassoc.com>, par téléphone au (416) 979-3335 ou par télécopieur au (416) 979-1144. Les collections doivent lui parvenir avant le vendredi 10 octobre 1998, par envoi préaffranchi. Il est nécessaire d'envoyer en même temps que le formulaire et les droits d'inscription la somme d'affranchissement ou de transport nécessaire au renvoi de la collection si celle-ci est é renvoyer é l'exposant par la poste ou par tout autre moyen de transport é partir de Toronto (Ontario).

13 Les collections livrées personnellement seront acceptées au Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, de 19 h é 22 h, le jeudi 16 octobre 1998.

14 Aucune collection ne sera retirée de son cadre avant que tous les visiteurs n'aient quitté le hall d'exposition, aprés la fermeture du Salon le dimanche 18 octobre 1998. Les exposants recevront de l'aide pour démonter leur collection. Ne prévoir aucun voyage de retour qui nécessiterait le départ de l'exposant ou de son agent du hall d'exposition avant 18 heures.

15 Les propriétaires doivent fournir leur propre assurance. Toutes les précautions nécessaires seront prises pour garantir la sécurité des piéces d'exposition; aucune responsabilité ne pourra cependant être imputée aux organisateurs ni aux commanditaires de l'exposition.

16 Aucune responsabilité, pour cause de négligence ou autre cause quelconque, ne pourra être imputée é l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste, é l'American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, é l'Exposition de timbres du Toronto Métropolitain, é Andrew Parr & Associates Management Services Inc., é la SRPC Fondation de recherche philatélique, é la Société royale de philatélie du Canada ou é la Municipalité de Toronto, é O&Y/SMG Canada, au conseil d'administration d'Exhibition Place ou au Centre national du commerce, ni é leurs directeurs, représentants qualifiés, membres, employés ou assistants bénévoles ou rémunérés, aux organisateurs, membres du jury ou délégués quelconques, en cas de perte ou de dégéts é une piéce d'exposition, é un stock de négociant ou autre propriété, pour quelque raison que ce soit. Les lois de la province d'Ontario seront applicables et les tribunaux de la province d'Ontario disposeront d'une juridiction exclusive é propos des cas litigieux.

17 Les organisateurs se réservent le droit d'amender ces réglements. Les décisions des organisateurs sont sans appel sur toutes les questions concernant l'Exposition et autres que les décisions du jury.

18 En signant le formulaire d'inscription, l'exposant s'engage é respecter ce réglement. En cas de déviations attribuables aux diverses traductions de ces réglements, la version anglaise demeure la référence.

Pour toute autre information, contacter Andrew D. Parr par courrier électronique é
<aparr@parrassoc.com>, par téléphone au (416) 979-3335
ou par télécopieur au (416) 979-1144.

The rules and regulations are also available in English.

Don's Corner

by Donald J. LeBlanc

Comments on Canadian Plate Blocks

Revised Precancel Plate Blocks Listing

Of all of the articles that I have submitted over the last few years, none has triggered more response than my original listing of Precancel plate blocks in the January 1996 Issue in *The Canadian Philatelist*. I received at least five times the responses compared with any other article and most of these letters came from Precancel collectors rather that plate block collectors. Many sent photocopies of their positions which allowed me to increase the listing by adding about ninety new plate corners. Other suggested corrections to the existing list and I have included these. Many offered blocks for sale knowing my weaknesses and I purchased all the ones that I needed.

My personal collection consists of 370 different plate blocks.

If one recollects my original article, I started with the preliminary list found in the 5th chapter of the CANADA PRECANCEL HANDBOOK. This lists contains 739 plate numbers of which 196 were identified by the exact corner position, or 26.5% confirmed. My first attempt last year identified 917 plate numbers with 443 confirmed positions or 48.4 % of the total identified.

With the help of our readers, the corrected listing now has 1005 listings of which 533 are identified which results in 53.3 % confirmed.

I am always interested in new listings or new positions and will keep an active file of this matter. It may be a few years before a new list is published but I will keep my list up-to-date and submit it to the Precancel Committee, if ever they publish a revised edition of the handbook.

Keep those letters coming and good hunting everyone!

NOTE: Mr. LeBlanc welcomes queries and comments on all matters relating to Canadian and Newfoundland Plate Blocks. His address is 163, Grande-Allée, Caraquet, NB, E1W 1A5.

S.C.P.C.	Plate Numbers & Number Position
I-35i	1R
T-89	51UR, 51UL, 51LL, 48, 52
T-90	71UR, 72LR
V-119	4
V-149	3UR
V-284	2
W-163i	1, 2
W-217	1
X-218	1
X-231	ILR, 2LR, 3UL, 3LR, 4UL, 8UR
X-233	15LR
X-249	5LR, 12UR, 13LL, 13LR, 14UR, 15UR, 18UR, 22UR, 23UL, 24LL, 25LL, 27UR, 30UL, 30LL, 30LR, 31UL, 31LR
X-250	I, 2, 3LR, 4UR, 5, 6
X-251	5UR
X-252	25, 33LL
X-284	ILR, 8UL, 8UR, 8LL, 8LR
X-285	1UL, 1LL, 1LR, 2LR, 3UL, 3LL
X-286	11, 13
X-305	3UL, 3UR, 3LL, 3LR, 4UL, 4UR, 4LL, 4LR, 7UL, 7UR, 7LL, 7LR
X-325	3UL, 4UL
X-326	3UL, 3UR, 3LL, 3LR, 4UL, 4UR, 4LL, 4LR
X-328	5, 6UR
X-337	4UL, 5UL, 5LL, 5UR, 5LR, 6LR, 7UR, 7LR, 8LL
X-338	1UL, 1UR, 1LL, 1LR,

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
	2UL, 2UR, 2LL, 2LR, 3UL, 3LR, 4UL, 4UR, 4LL, 4LR, 5UL, 5UR, 5LL, 5LR, 6UR, 7UL, 7UR, 7LL, 7LR, 8UL, 8UR, 8LL, 8LR, 9UL, 9UR, 9LL, 9LR
X-339	1UL, 1UR, 1LL, 1LR, 2UL, 2UR, 2LL, 2LR
X-341	3UL, 4UL
Y-712	1UL, 1LL, 2UL, 2LL
Y-787	1UL, 1UR, 1LL, 1LR
Beamsville (2186)	
1-165a	7
2-231	1LR, 3
Brandon (5099)	
4-217	1
4-231	1, 2, 3LL, 6UL
4-249	9UL, 10UR,
Brantford (2310)	
1-163i	2
3-195-D	2, 5UR
4-231	1
4-249	5UR, 5LL, 30UR
Brockville (2342)	
3-163i	1UR, 2
3-195	6UL
4-217	3
4-231	1UL, 1LL, 2LR
Calgary (8160)	
1-105	186
1-150	2
1-162	2
1-163i	1, 2
1-165a	6UL
1-195	3
3-195-I	4
3-217	3LL
4-217	3UL, 2UL,
4-218	2, 3
4-231	3UR, 9
4-232	3, 13
4-233	3UL, 10UL
4-249	9UL, 9LR, 12, 22UL, 22UR, 22LL, 22LR, 24LR, 25
4-250	5
4-252	7LR, 10UL, 10LR
4-254	5UL, 6UL, 21
4-284	1UL, 1UR, 1LR, 2UL, 2UR, 2LL, 2LR, 4UL,

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
	4UR, 4LR
4-285	1UL, 1UR, 1LL, 1LR, 2UL, 2UR, 2LL, 2LR
4-305	3UL, 3LL, 4UL, 4LL, 4LR
Carleton Place (2450)	
1-196	2, 3LL
Cobourg (2575)	
1-195	5LR
1-218	2
2-217	2UL, 3
2-218	2UL
2-231	1
2-232	2, 3
2-233	2, 3, 4
Edmonton (8360)	
1-105	186, 187, 197
1-107	201, 202, 203, 205, 206, 207
1-116	116
1-163i	I, 2LR
1-163	5, 6
3-107	170
3-162	2
3-163	5, 6, 7, 8
3-195	3
4-195	5UR, 6UR, 6LR
4-217	1LL, 2
5-217	2
5-231	1, 2UL, 3
5-249	3UL, 3LL, 10UR, 14LL, 15, 25LR
5-284	1LR
5-285	2LL
5-305	3UR, 7UL
Fredericton	
1-105	191U, 192, 193, 221,
1-107	221, 222UR, 223U
1-195	1
Galt (2980)	
1-163-I	5UR, 6
Guelph (3080)	
1-163-D	1LR
1-195	5
2-217	1UR
2-249	5UL, 11UR, 12UL, 12UR
Halifax (X275)	
1-111	5
2-196	2

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
4-218	3
4-231	1
4-249	9LL, 15LL
4-250	6LR
4-284	2
Hamilton (3100)	
1-119	9
1-120a	2UR, 3
1-120	4
1-163i	1UR
4-119	9
4-120a	2, 3
4-120	4
4-163i	2
4-165a	4LR
5-163i	1UR, 2UR
5-163	6LL
5-163-I	5LR, 6LR, 7LR
5-165a	4LR
5-166a	8, 9UR
5-195	3, 5LR, 6LR
6-217	3
6-231	9
7-217	2, 3
7-218	2LR
7-231	1LL, 3LR
7-232	3LR, 14UL, 2UL
7-233	4
7-249	6LL, 7UL, 9UL, 10UL, 21UL
7-250	5, 6UL
7-252	6, 10, 16
7-284	1
7-285	1LL, 2LL
Kingston (3340)	
2-196	1UL, 2
2-217	2LL
3-217	2
3-218	2UL
3-219	2
3-231	4, 7, 8UR
3-232	4, 8
3-233	8, 11UR
3-249	10
3-250	5
3-252	14UL, 14UR
Kitchener (3366)	
1-105	182UL, 186UR, 187, 196
1-106-ID 155	
1-112	16

S.C.P.C.
PLATE NUMBERS & NUMBER POSITION

1-118	25
1-119	9
1-163-D	5LR
1-195	3LL
1-195-D	5, 6
2-231	4
2-232	3
2-249	11UR, 12UR
2-250	5UR, 6UR
2-284	1LR, 2UR, 2LR

Lennoxville (0592)

1-217	3LR
1-218	3
1-231	2LR, 4LR
1-249	7

Lethbridge (8605)

2-217	2, 3
2-231	1UL

Lindsay (3445)

1-120a	2
1-120	4
2-217	2, 1L

London (3470)

1-120a	2
1-163i-I	2
1-195	3, 4UL
3-105	192UL, 193UL
3-149	1U, 2U, 3UR
3-163	5, 8LL
3-165	8R
3-166b	9
4-195	3, 4
4-197	9, 10
4-217	2LR
4-218	1, 2
5-219	2LL
5-231	1UR, 3
5-232	5, 13UR, 13LL
5-233	6
5-231-I	5
5-231-I	13
5-249	5LL, 7, 13LL, 14UR, 30, 31
5-250	5, 6,
5-286	1
5-305	7

Moncton (X809)

1-119	9
2-119	9
3-119	9
5-231	4LR, 2

S.C.P.C.
PLATE NUMBERS & NUMBER POSITION

Montréal (0700)

2-89-I	28
2-91-I	4L
4-91	4L
4-119-D	2
4-120a	2, 3
4-120	4
4-164	4UR
6-120a	2, 3
6-120	4
7-120a	2
7-141	4, 5UR, 6UR
7-162	2UL
7-165-D	7
8-163i-I	1, 2
8-163i	1LL, 1LR
8-163-D	1UL
8-163-I	5UL, 6UL
8-166-I	8LR, 7
8-166b	5, 6
8-165	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
8-195	1, 2UR, 3UR, 4UR, 5UR, 6
8-196	1LL, 2LL, 3
8-196-D	2LL, 3LL
8-197	5UL, 6UL, 9UL, 10UL
8-217	2LR, 1, 3
9-250	2
10-217	1, 2, 3
10-218	2, 3
10-219	1, 2, 3, 5, 8
10-231	1UR, 2UR, 3UR
10-232	1UR, 2UR, 3UR, 5
10-233	1UL, 2UL, 3
10-249	9LL, 10LR, 13LL, 24UR
10-251	7UL
10-284	2LR, 6
10-285	1, 2, 6
10-305	3LR, 7LR
10-328	1UL, 2UL
10-329	1LR

Moose Jaw (7120)

3-217	3
3-231	3LL, 4, 6, 9
3-249	9L, 11LL, 15LL, 19
3-232	2
3-250	5, 6,
3-284	1

New-Westminster (9500)

1-195	6LL
2-231	3LL

S.C.P.C.
PLATE NUMBERS & NUMBER POSITION

Niagara Falls (3800)

3-119	9
3-120a	2, 3
3-120	4
3-162	1
4-196	2
4-231	2
5-249	4, 9, 10UR, 10LL
5-284	1

North Battleford

1-105	175
1-120a	3
1-120	4
3-120a	3

Oshawa (3893)

1-119	9
1-120a	2
1-120	4
2-217	3U
3-217	2
3-231	2, 3, 5, 9
3-232	2
3-249	3
3-250	5UR, 6UR
3-251	7

Ottawa (3900)

1-104	125
3-119	2, 7
3-120a	1, 2, 3
3-120	4UR
3-149	2
3-195	1, 2
4-195	5, 6
5-217	1, 2
5-231	3, 6LR
5-232	2
5-249	14UL, 15, 21, 22, 30
5-284	2LR
5-285	2
5-305	3UR, 3LL, 7UR, 7LL

Owen Sound (3975)

1-195	3
2-217	3LR, 2
2-231	1UR

Paris (4004)

1-195	5, 6

Peterborough (4035)

2-196	2
3-217	3LL

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
3-232	2UR, 3
3-250	5, 6UR
3-284	1
Québec (1050)	
1-90	83, 84
3-163i-I	2
4-195	5
4-196	2, 3
5-231	1, 2, 3
5-232	8
5-249	5LR, 13LR, 14LR, 21LR
5-284	I, 2
5-285	2
5-328	1, 2
5-329	2UL, 1
Red Deer (8802)	
1-195	6UR
1-217	1
2-217	1, 2
Regina (7420)	
1-104	157
1-150	7, 8
1-163i	1UR, 2
2-105-D	188, 190UL
2-150	3
2-162-D	2LR
3-195	5L
3-218	1
4-217	3
4-231	5, 6UL
4-232	3
4-249	9UR, 10, 12LR, 21LL, 24LR
4-250	1LL, 2UL, 5UR, 6, 24
4-284	1LL
4-285	1
Rock Island (1142)	
1-191	2UL
1-195	5UR, 6UL
1-196	2UR, 3
1-211	1UL, 2
1-212	1
1-217	2UL
1-218	1UR
2-217	2UL
2-218	1UR, 2
2-231	I, 2, 3
2-232	1, 2, 3

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
St. Hyacinthe (1470)	
2-217	3
2-231	1UR
2-232	3LR
St. John (X910)	
3-104	160
3-195	5, 6LR
4-217	3UR
4-231	1UL, 2, 3UL
4-249	6, 7UR, 10
St. Thomas (4260)	
1-119	9
1-120a	2
1-120	4
1-163	2UL
2-218	2
2-231	2LR, 8UR
2-249	10UL, 10LL, 11LL, 25UL
2-284	2UL
Sackville (X945)	
1-231	5U
Saskatoon (7550)	
1-105	193
1-119	9
1-120	4
1-196	3UL
2-217	1
3-217	1
3-218	2
3-231	1, 5LL, 6UR, 9UR, 9LL
3-232	2, 3LL, 8UL, 8LL, 8LR
3-233	8, 14UR
3-249	9UR, 10UL, 10LL, 10LR, 20, 23
3-250	5LR, 6
3-284	1UL, 1LR
Sherbrooke (1810)	
1-217	2U
1-221	2
2-217	1UL, 1LL, 2U
2-231	2UR
Toronto (4530)	
3-89-I	11UR
3-104	12
3-104-I	12
3-105	4
3-120a	2, 3
3-149	2

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
6-195-D	6
7-119	9
7-120a	2, 3
7-120	4
10-104	168UL
10-119	9
10-120a	2, 3
10-105	182
10-117	22
10-120	4UL
11-119	9
11-120a	2
11-120	4
11-163i	2UR, 1UL
11-163i-D	1UL
12-120	4
12-149	3
13-163	5UR
13-165	7LL
13-166	8UL
13-195	2LR, 2LL, 5, 6UL, 6LR
13-196	3UR
13-197	9UL, 10LR
15-217	2UL, 2LL, 3LL
15-218	2
15-231	1UL, 1UR, 1LR, 2, 3UR, 3LL, 4UR, 6UL, 7LR, 8LR
15-232	2UR, 3UR, 3UL, 8
15-233	5UR, 6LR, 7UL, 8UR
15-249	4LL, 4LR, 5UR, 5LL, 5LR, 9UL, 9UR, 9LR, 10UL, 10UR, 10LR, 15, 18UR, 18UL, 19LR, 20LR, 21LL, 21UL, 21LR, 22LL, 24UL, 24LR, 25UL, 25LR
15-250	1, 3, 5UL, 5LL, 5LR
15-251	6
15-252	17LR, 16, 27UR, 32UR, 33UR, 33LR
15-284	1UR,1UL, 2UL, 4UL, 4UR, 6UL, 6UR, 6LR
15-285	1, 2
15-286	2, 8U
15-305	3LR, 7UL, 7UR, 7LR
15-328	1LL, 2LL
15-329	1, 2
Vancouver (9780)	
2-105	182
2-120a	2

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
2-120	4
2-162	3
2-163-I	5LR
2-166b	8
3-166b	10UR
4-195	3LR
6-217	2
6-231	2LR, 5UL, 5UR, 5LL, 5LR, 6, 8LR
6-232	2, 8
6-249	10, 24UL, 25UL, 25LL
6-250	5LR
6-252	10UL, 14, 16UL
6-285	1LR, 2UL
Victoria (9890)	
1-89	24
1-104-I	168
1-105-I	174
1-107	185, 186
1-107-I	185
1-149-I	1, 3
3-217	3
3-231	2, 3, 5
3-249	6LR

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
Welland	
1-195	5UR, 6LL
Weston (4900)	
1-195	1UR
Windsor (4940)	
3-163i	1, 2
3-195	3
4-191	3UL
4-196	2, 3L, 2L
4-217	3UL
5-217	2LL, 3LR
5-218	2
5-231	1, 3LL
5-232	3, 5
5-249	24, 25LL
5-284	1, 2
5-285	2
Winnipeg (5850)	
3-150	4
3-162-D	1LL
3-164	5
3-163i	2
4-119	9
6-163i	1UR
6-195	6

S.C.P.C. Plate Numbers & Number Position	
6-195-I	5, 6
6-196	2, 3LL
6-197-I	9LR
6-163	9LL, 10LL
6-163-I	10
8-218	4
8-231	2UL, 3, 8UR
8-232	5, 8LL
8-233	4UR
8-249	6UL, 10LR, 15, 18, 20, 21, 24LL, 25, 30, 31LL
8-250	1, 6
8-251	5, 6UL
8-252	32, 33
8-254	6LL
8-284	6UL
8-285	3
8-305	3UL, 4, 7
Woodstock (4970)	
3-217	2
Yorkton (7977)	
2-217	2
2-231	3LL, 3LR, 8LL
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VIGNETTES OF EARLY BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

by J.C. Arnell, FRPSC

XLIX

Excessive Postage Charged in the Canadas in the 1820s and 1830s.

On three previous occasions, I have written in this series about the postage charged between Montreal and the U.S. border (*The Canadian Philatelist* Sept./Oct. 1985, Jan./Feb. 1994 and Jul./Aug. 1995) pointing out that the Montreal postmaster had apparently taken upon himself to increase the postage over the less than 60 miles of the route from the correct 4-1/2d. Cy. to 6d. Cy. when the U.S.-Canada exchange office was moved from Burlington to Swanton, Vermont after the War of 1812 – bringing it within the minimum postage limit. Lacking any evidence to the contrary, I suggested that this was following the actions of the Upper Canadian border postmasters, who began charging 'Ferry' at Niagara, Kingston, etc., where there were water crossings and legitimate charges for the crossing, and termed the former a 'Border Fee'. The Upper Canadian practice was not officially recognized and authorized by the Post Offices of the two countries until January 1829, when a postal regulation was issued for 'Ferriage' with a 2d. Cy. charge, except 3d. Cy. at Kingston, where an island necessitated two separate water crossings. The only other examples I knew of an additional Lower Canadian charge were on letters to and from Quebec, where the correct postage was 11d. Cy., but letters were charged 1s. 0d. Cy. These excessive charges were discontinued more or less concurrently with the official discontinuance of Ferriage in Upper Canada in February 1837.

In addition to this, the Montreal postmaster also introduced a fifty per cent surcharge on this overcharge from the beginning to make the postage between there and the border 9d. Cy. – this charge does not appear to have been applied anywhere else. The excuse appears to be that the U.S. Congress had introduced a fifty per cent surcharge on February 1, 1815 to help pay for the costs of the War of 1812; however, this was found to discourage the use of the Mails and was rescinded on April 1, 1816. On the other hand, Montreal introduced it in May 1815 and kept it going until May 1, 1819. Figures 1 and 2 are examples of these charges, and Figure 3 shows the correct charge at a later date; all are New York ship letters with a U.S. postal charge of 20-1 /2 or 20-3/4 cents 2 cents ship letter fee, plus U.S. postage to the border exchange office.

I had discussed this often with the late Allan Steinhart and, lacking any evidence to the contrary, he agreed that my interpretation was likely to be right. In addition, he had not identified letters to or from any other Lower Canadian post office with a similar overcharge. However, I recently found that he had information in his files that discounts all of this, as the practice of overcharging was apparently rampant in both Upper and Lower Canada during this period.

For several years before Allan's death, I had been transcribing the rough notes he had made over many years on all aspects of BNA postal history with a view to their ultimate publication. I had been using photocopies and had covered the 1820-1830 period. Since his death, his sister has turned the whole file over to me, and I have completed from the earliest dates to the early 1840s about sixty per cent of the notes. Buried in the material I have already transcribed are two items, which bear directly on this subject.

The first is a Post Office circular from Quebec dated October 23, 1816.

Notice is hereby given that the following Post Offices have recently been established on the South Side of the St. Lawrence, below this city, viz.

Rate of Postage from and to Quebec.

At St. Thomas, J. McPherson, P.M. – 6d. For a single Letter and in

River Ouelle, Letellier De DeJust, P.M. – 8d. proportion for double, etc.

Kamouraska, J.B. Tasché, Esq. P.M. – 10d.

Letters for said places and adjoining parishes will be forwarded from this office every second Tuesday, commencing Tuesday the 5th of November next, – Mails to be closed at 11 a.m.

H. Cowen, Post Master.

These rates had the same type of increase as the Montreal and Quebec City ones discussed above, as St. Thomas should have been 4-1 /2d. Cy.; River Ouelle, 7d. Cy.; and Kamouraska, 9d. Cy.

A similar form of overcharging in Upper Canada was the subject of a parliamentary inquiry by a committee of the Upper Canadian House of Assembly on February 29, 1820. Allan had copied some of the evidence given by William Allan, the Postmaster at York, from a reprint in the 9th Report of the bureau of Archives of Ontario, 1912. the following is a part of this:

4. Q. - Have you any discretionary authority from the Deputy Postmaster General to regulate the rates of postage from York to the Post Offices west of it? A. - I have not.

5. Q. - Have any new Post Offices been established since you held the appointment?

A. - Many.

6. Q. - Can you state what they are?

A. - Dundas, Grimsby, Queenston and Chippewa before the war, Vittoria, Delaware, Port Talbot, Amherstburgh and St. Catherines.

7. Q. - Can you inform the House of the rates and distance of postage charged to those places?

A. - I can as to rates. Not certainly as to distance. To Dundas, 8d., Grimsby', 10d., St. Catherines, 10d., Niagara, 10d., Queenston, 10d., Chippewa, 10d., Vittoria, 1s., Armherstburgh, 1s. 4d., Sandwich, 1s. 4d.

8. Q. - Is this paper (paper exhibited to witness) a correct list of the authorized rates in the Post Office?

A. - Yes, I believe it is.

9. Q. - When a new Post Office is established, by whom is the rate fixed?

A. - I cannot say; when any letter comes from a new Post Office to York, the postage charged in the accompanying way bill regulates the charge.

(In explanation to number 4, under discretionary authority from Mr. Herriott, late Deputy Postmaster General, Witness established the Post Offices at Dundas, Grimsby, and he thinks Vittoria; and fixed the rate of postage to them. He has no such authority under Mr. Sutherland).

10. Q. - Was any communication made by the Deputy Postmaster General to you, directing you to establish such a rate as would cover the expense?

A. - Mr. Herriott objected to the establishment of new offices unless they would cover the expense.

11. Q. - Have you ever been furnished by the Deputy Postmaster General with a copy of the Act of Parliament regulating the Post Offices in the British Colonies, the general instructions under it, or any general schedule showing the rates of postage authorized to be charged on the conveyance of letters throughout the British Provinces in North America?

A. - I never have, I found a schedule in the office when I was appointed, at which time there were not more than two or three offices in the Province.

12. Q. - Was the schedule alluded to similar to that shown to you during the present examination?

A.- Yes.

13. Q. - Have you any knowledge of the rates of postage charged, first from Kingston to York, second from Kingston to Vittoria, third, from Kingston to Amherstburgh, fourth, from Kingston to Port Talbot, fifth, from Kingston to Delaware, sixth, from Kingston to Niagara?

A. - I can only speak positively as to the postage rate to York, which is 10d. I believe it is the same to Niagara.

14. Q. - Is the printed Schedule of Rates the scale for charging postage on letters conveyed between the post office noted therein and acted upon at present?

A. - Yes.'

The rates of postage quoted above by' Mr. Allan did not conform with those set out in the Act of 1765, as 4-1/2d., 7d., 9d]., etc., and it might be assumed that the discrepancy was the result of the point made in para. 10 above, that a new office must cover expenses. Nevertheless it is difficult to understand why he seemed unaware of significance of the Post Office Act related to the official post offices, and did not know at least some of the distances.

On the next day, the House went into Committee on the Post Office, and the following resolution, was adopted by the House:

'Resolved, that it is the opinion of this House that the rates of Postage charged in Upper Canada for several years past for the conveyance of letters have exceeded the charge authorized by law. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this House that an Address

be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, communicating to him the Resolution of this House, and requesting him to represent the same to His Majesty's Ministers, and to pray their interference with the Post Master General in Great Britain, to prevent the continuence of so serious an evil.'

This was expanded in a special report of December 8, 1820, which noted:

'that an Address was presented to the Lieutenant Governor, requesting him to represent the same to His Majesty's Ministers, and to pray their interference with the Postmaster General in Great Britain, to prevent the continuance of so great an evil...and that in fact the postage of letters within the Province with regard to distances have been at arbitrary rates from place to place...[and] resolved, that the present system of Public Post for the Conveyance of Letters within this Province has grown into use without the sanction of law, and it is therefore expedient a Bill be brought in, establishing Public Posts, and fixing rates and postage of letters and packets, for the purpose of raising a permament revenue.'

So my past observations on the excess postage being charged at Montreal only touched on a very minor part of a general practice, obviously sanctioned by the Deputy Postmasters General of British North America over many years. However, the facts that the Montreal rates remained unchanged until 1837, it suggests that either the General Post Office in London ignored the problem or the Deputy Postmaster General at Quebec took no action, if instructed, to do so. Hopefully this may prompt others to check the postage on their Lower Canadian letters of the period. ❑



Figure 1. Duplicate of a March 7, 1819 letter from Liverpool, marked 'Falcon via Boston, but which was carried to New York, entered as a Ship Letter on April 25 and rated 20-1 /2 cents U.S. postage due. At Montreal, this was converted to 1s. 1d. Cy. and 9d. Cy. BNA postage added for a total postage due of 1s. 10d. Cy., showing that the fifty per cent surcharge was still in effect.



Figure 2. Original of the same letter as Figure 1, marked 'p' Caroline'. Entered as a New York ship letter on April 26, and also rated 20-1/2 cents U.S. postage due. In this case, Montreal only added 6d. Cy. BNA postage for a total postage due of 1s. 7d. Cy., indicating that it had arrived after the surcharge had been removed on May 1, 1819.



Figure 3. Letter from Paris dated January 15, 1837, which was carried to New York on a Union Line packet from Havre, arriving on March 10 and rated 20-3/4 cents U.S. postage due. Montreal charged the letter 1s. 5-1 /2d. Cy. postage due, showing that the BNA postage had been lowered to the correct value of 4-1/2d. Cy.

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The Short Story Column

by "Raconteur"

In the Book of the Prophet Isaiah we read of his prophesying the coming of Christ's Kingdom. In Chapter 2, verse 4, he states: "And he shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people:



and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Sadly, the world has yet to see that prophesy come to pass; however, at the turn of this century two South American countries did settle their differences amicably and, in effect, they sort of ***beat their swords into plowshares.***

Chile and Argentina were involved in a border dispute but a peaceful settlement was concluded in 1902, without a shot having been fired. Bishop Benavente and Mrs. Angela de Oliveira César de Costa came up with the idea or erecting a monument to commemorate this settlement. Mrs. De Costa, as President of the Christian Mothers' Association of Buenos Aires, undertook the raising of funds. Public officials in both Argentina and Chile quickly adopted the idea, and assumed the responsibility of putting it into effect. And on March 13, 1904, the Statue of Christ, more than twice life-size, was set up on a pedestal hewn from nearby natural rock. This massive structure stands near the summit of Uspallata Pass, at an altitude of 13,000 feet in the Andes, on the borderline between the two nations which share a common frontier of over 3,250 miles (By the way, the Canada/US border is 3,987 miles long).



Now, this monument to eternal peace was cast from melted bronze of old cannon left by the Spaniards when Argentina obtained her independence. ***Beat their swords into plowshares...***



The sculptor was a young Argentinean by the name of Mateo Alonso. And the statue bears this inscription: *"Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Chileans and Argentineans shall break the peace which, at the feet of Christ, the Redeemer, they have sworn to maintain."*



Argentina issued a stamp portraying this monument on October 1, 1934; and Chile followed suit much later with a stamp release on August 31, 1955.

Incidentally: very close to this monument is the skiing centre of Portillo, which was the site of the 1966 international skiing championships (featured on a Chilean set issued that year).



New on the Philatelic Bookshelf

Philatelic Literature: A History and a Select Bibliography from 1861 to 1991, Volume Two, by Manfred Amrhein, M.D. San Jose, Costa Rica, 1997, xvii + 228 pp. Limited hardbound edition of 220 copies. U.S. $95.00 postpaid from the author, Apartado 1167-1007 Costa Rica.

This book comprises volume two of a proposed four volume series being published by Dr. Amrhein, on the history of philatelic literature. While the former publication (volume one) deals with the beginnings and early history of philatelic literature, this second volume, covering chapters 5 to 18, is specific to the twentieth century and philatelic publishing in and about Latin America.

The first chapters (5-9) deal with 20th Century history providing an insight into the influences of the pioneers in the new century and the major changes that occurred. This includes changes in collector preference for unused stamps in multiples, stamps on covers, and a move towards specialization. The author also shows the influence of organized philately in the development of trends such as exhibiting and auctioning and gives insight into the ways of disseminating information on philately, such as oral history , slide conferences, radio talk shows (some of us may remember the efforts of Douglas Patrick within his CBC Stamp Club in the 1950's-1960's). He discusses how this further influenced trends in research and publishing.

The main chapters (10-18) focus on stamp collecting in Latin America and the burgeoning interest in Latin American philately. Most of the Latin American countries are dealt with in specific chapters. The author outlines the first stamp issues and how philately was organized, including the names of outstanding researchers and research that led to the formation of large specialized collections and publications, their dissemination, and exhibition. The format is consistent and until the appearance of this publication it should be remembered that research in this particular area had never been well covered in the past. Dr. Amrhein is to be congratulated in researching and addressing an area that, for the most part, has not been fully examined and made available in the English language.

Illustrations, both in b&w and colour, add significantly to the work and the layout and overall design of the book is most commendable. The bibliography at the end of each chapter, as well as the footnotes provide the reader with easy access to published sources and a better understanding of the outstanding research that went into the writing of this second volume. The index is easy to use. Some typographical errors may distract the purist but these certainly do not affect the overall coverage of this publication.

What makes Dr. Amrhein's book so appealing is the fact that he makes every effort to establish the relationship between social and political history and its influence and relationship to the philatelic history of the areas covered. Philately is an integrally bound up with global trends and can thus be better appreciated.

This book is a must for students interested in the history of Latin American philately, as well as collectors who want to better understand and appreciate the evolution of philatelic literature and the hobby through the years.

Cimon Morin

HELIGOLAND: HELGOLAND

(English – or German: whichever you prefer)

By Ray W. Ireson

Have you ever heard of this place? It is a tiny island in the North Sea about 40 miles northwest of the mouth of the Elbe River. If you really want precision, it is located at 54° 11'N. lat. and 7° 53' E. long. OK?? Are you happy now??



The island is one mile long from north to south, about one third of a mile wide, and about three miles in circumference. The original inhabitants were originally of Frisian descent and it was an island stronghold of the ancient Frisians: the island was also known to the Romans. Its historic importance dates from the 17th century, when various naval powers sought possession in their struggle to control the North Sea. A possession of Holstein from 1402, Helgoland was conquered by Denmark in 1714, and the Danes held it until a British naval force seized it in 1807. The island was formally ceded by Denmark to Great Britain at the peace of Kiel in 1814.



And now we come to the philatelic aspect of this article.

The Free City of Hamburg ran the Helgoland postal service between 1796 and June 1, 1866. During that period they used their own stamps (see Scott #1-25)...notwithstanding the fact that since 1814 the island had become a British possession. But Britain was not running the Post Office; hence, their stamps were never used! Hamburg was a member of the German Confederation and became part of the German Empire in 1870.

Helgoland issued their own stamps in March of 1867: all their issues through to 1890 were typographed at the Imperial Printing Works, Berlin. Queen Victoria's portrait appears on nearly all of them. The 1867 and 1869 issues are expressed only in German currency, but the 1875 issue is expressed in sterling and marks.

It is one of the smallest areas in the world to have issued its own postage stamps! How about that??

But on August 9, 1890 Great Britain ceded the island of Helgoland to Germany in exchange for the protectorate of Witu in Kenya and the island of Zanzibar, off the east coast of Africa. So only German stamps have appeared on mail emanating from this tiny island since then.

Helgoland has seen many naval engagements over the years, due to its strategic location. Prussian and Danish squadrons battled there in 1864, and British and German naval units fought at least three engagements there in the WWI. After that War the island's fortifications were

demolished in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles, but before WWII began the island was refortified by the Nazis and it played an important role as a submarine base. Following the end of the war the British decided to render the island useless as a naval base. The 2,000 islanders were evacuated in April 1947 and the fortifications and submarine pens were destroyed by dynamite. The explosion changed the shape of the island, causing a landslide at the southern end and blowing part of the cliffs into the sea. A third of the island was washed away.

Helgoland was formally returned to West Germany in 1952. After more than four decades of turbulence and war, an extensive programme of construction has again made this tiny island a popular resort centre.

But: one last word to those of you who might decide to start a collection of Helgoland stamps after reading this article...Caviat Emptor...Watch those stamps like a hawk...forgeries abound!!!

More Letters

AN OPEN LETTER
April 6, 1998
Oleg Podymow, President
Lakeshore Stamp Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, QC
H9R 4N5

Dear Mr. President

While attending the Lakeshore Stamp Club's annual exhibition last weekend, I was taken to task by a few of your members concerning the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) signed in November 1997 between The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) and the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association (CSDA). They felt that The RPSC abdicated its responsibilities to stamp collectors by signing the MOU and they have long memories of past problems with the CSDA. In this letter I wish to provide more information on the MOU so as to alleviate their fears and ensure that they understand that The RPSC is now taking an aggressive stance in the promotion and development of the hobby after many years of inactive participation and that we need the help of our Chapters and members to do so.

The Lakeshore Stamp Club has been in the forefront of this renewal and has been instrumental in supporting The RPSC's renewal. Ray Ireson, a member of your club, one of our Directors and the Coordinator of our Chapter program, has been a hard working and solid addition to The RPSC's revitalization group. Your club's exhibiting seminar, which you shared with other Clubs and Chapters through The RPSC has been a major new service that we have offered to our members. Your cooperation is gratefully recognized.

However, I feel that it is incumbent upon me to set the record straight and insure your members and those of other Chapters-by way of an open letter in The Canadian Philatelist-that The RPSC and the other major partners in Canadian philately, the CSDA and Canada Post Corporation, wish to work together for the betterment of the hobby and all stamp collectors. Too often in the past these associations and many others worked at cross purposes to each other. The object of our Memorandum of Agreement, and many of the other projects we will work together on, is to strengthen the links between ourselves, exchange information and coordinate stamp collecting and philatelic activities in Canada and, in cooperation with the American Philatelic Association (APS), in North America.

The document begins by spelling out our shared goals and objectives for the hobby. The first main feature of the MOU is the exchange of information on thefts and on complaints received by each organization. This formalizes an information exchange which existed haphazardly in the past. The second main feature is the nomination to each others Board of Directors of an ex-officio member from the other organization. This means that both organizations will be able to provide timely and vital information to each other before decisions are made. The MOU stipulates further that cooperation on philatelic shows, exhibitions and bourses would be the subject of separate MOUs and, in most cases would be completed on a show to show basis and would include all partners (CSDA, RPSC, Canada Post, other philatelic societies and local clubs when appropriate.)

Copies of the MOU are available by writing to The RPSC's national office (P.O. Box 929, Station 'Q', Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1.

I would also like to deal with another issue which is dear to the heart of your members as well as to other local clubs. This is the subject of conflicting dates of shows. To say the least, this is a very frustrating issue. Every time we feel that the problem is resolved, it raises its head again.

The key issues in this problem are parochialism, the number of shows and their locations. Organizers, whomever they are or at whatever level the show, invariably never ask about, seek out information about, or look up dates of other shows within North America or internationally-sometimes not even in their own province-before they select dates or sign a contract for room rentals. They normally look after themselves first. There are shows which have a long history of staying fairly close to their dates over the years. The Ottawa and Edmonton national shows are examples and so is The Lakeshore Stamp Club's Exhibition. Others fluctuate, sometimes wildly, although they feel they have a right to a set time. BNAPS is an example of this because it usually meets in convention Labour Day weekend but this year it meets in Vernon, BC on October 8-11. Other organizations, such as the CSDA shows in Montreal and Toronto, are bound by long term contracts with their venues.

Part of the greater partnership between The CSDA and The RPSC is to try and help resolve this issue. A perfect solution, pleasing to everybody, will never be available but at least we will make an attempt. A good solution also means that stamp clubs and shows would have to consult and accept that other shows can be held the same weekend as theirs. This is easier said than done. In addition, show organizers must realize that there is a pecking order by show level as well. The RPSC and the CSDA have no control over the date selection for international shows and, some of these, can have an impact on dealer attendance at local and national shows, Paris 1999 and London 2000 are examples. In addition there are 34 national shows in the US and anywhere from four to six in Canada (including BNAPS). A little arithmetic may help here. That is a total of about 40 shows that have to be spread out over a limited number of weekends. There are, in general, no national stamp shows in the 10 weekends around July and August and none in the four weeks around Christmas and New Year. That's 14 weekends that are not available. You can already see that 40 shows do not fit in the 38 weekends left. Therefore, even at this

level there are conflicts. Add to this regional shows, local shows and dealers' bourses and it is easy to see the difficulty in preventing a large number of conflicts.

The RPSC and the CSDA have agreed to set up a data bank of show dates which will appear on The RPSC's web site, will be available from the National Office in Toronto and will be made available to the American Philatelic Society as well. However much we would like to, neither the CSDA or The RPSC has the right to prevent anybody from holding a show. All they can do is publicize, as much as possible, selected dates and use moral influence on show organizers. This is why The RPSC has been asking in its last two issues of The canadian Philatelist for show organizers to send in their show dates to its national office. My last comment on this issue has to do with dealers. I want you and your members to remember that these people are small business people and they will usually support whatever show is best suited to their business.

Before closing, I have one last comment to make on the cooperation between The RPSC and the CSDA. Both organizations are committed to work with local organizations (existing shows and stamp clubs) to promote the hobby, explore new projects and programs and develop, strengthen or expand stamp shows in Canada.

I invite your members to write to The RPSC's national office if they have any questions or, alternatively, they can send their comments to rpsc@interlog.com our e-mail address.

I hope I have been able to answer many of the questions raised by your members and I would appreciate it if you could read out this letter at one of your forthcoming meetings.

Sincerely yours

Charles J. G. Verge
Vice-President
The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Notes from the National Office
Notes du Bureau national

by/par Andrew Parr

A Clarification...

In recent weeks, I have had the privilege of speaking to a number of members on the telephone and receiving a number of letters about "notices" of dues payment required on The Canadian Philatelist.

Given the number of the concerns being raised, the National Office has taken action to resolve the situation. Effective with the March/April issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, you might have noted that the mailing label no longer included information about the date that your membership expires. This is simply because the mailing label was never intended to act as this kind of a reminder. Notices that your annual dues are required are mailed out separately from *The Canadian Philatelist* and, at least for now, they are yellow cards. It is these yellow cards to which you should respond.

Before making this change, the National Office also found that members were paying their dues because of the information on the mailing label even though they may have already paid their dues or they would pay twice because their first payment and our official (yellow card) notice would cross in the mail.

We hope this change will help us serve you better. Of course, if you have a contrary opinion on the subject, don't hesitate to drop us a note.

Andrew D. Parr

Administrator

Mise au point...

Au cours des dernières semaines, j'ai eu l'opportunité de parler au téléphone à plusiers d'entre-vous et j'ai reçu plusieurs lettres à propos de la cotisation et de l'abonnement au Philatéliste canadien.

Afin de résorber un certain malentendu, le Bureau national a décidé de modifier ses façons de faire pour améliorer la situation. À partir de la livraison de mars/avril du Philatéliste canadien, vous remarquerez que la date d'expiration de votre abonnement de figurera plus sur l'étiquette d'adressage. En fait, cette date d'expiration qui figurait sur l'étiquette d'adresse n'a jamais eu comme finalité de servir à vous rappeler de renouveler. Un avis de renouvellement (carte jaune) vous est automatiquement expédié par la poste de façon séparée. Ce sont ces cartes jaunes qui servent d'avis et que vous devez retourner.

Cette modification est rendue nécessaire pour éviter tout imbroglio. En effet, le Bureau national a découvert que plusieurs membres payaient leur cotisation en fonction de la date qui apparaissait sur l'étiquette de la revue, mîme s'ils avaient déjà payé. Ils se trouvaient donc à payer deux fois.

Nous espérons que cette nouvelle façon de faire nous aidera à mieux vous servir. Bien entendu, si vous avez des questions, ou que vous îtes en désaccord, n'hésitez pas à nous le faire savoir.

Andrew D. Parr

Administrateur

Membership Reports / Rapports de membres

NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

The following applications were received and are herewith published in accordance with the Constitution. If no adverse reports are received within 30 days of publication, applicants will be accepted into full membership. Any objections should be sent to the National Office, P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1.

Les demandes d'adhésion ci-dessous ont été reçues et sont publiées en conformité avec la constitution. Si aucun commentaire communiquée à la Bureau Nationale, C.P. 929, Succursale Q, Toronto, (ON) M4T 2P1.

* requests address not be published / demande que son adresse ne soit pas publié

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I-26745 Mrs. Jeanne A. Luchka
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I-26757 Mr. Marcy Tomassini

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51 Balsam
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I-26763 Mr. RomTo LacacT

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Ludlow, Lewis M. (L-7607) Kirkland, WA
Smith, John T. (L-19140) Fort McMurray, AB

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Coming Events / Calendrier

To have your event listed in this section of *The Canadian Philatelist*, please send all details to The RPSC National Office, P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1. Details may be faxed to (416) 979-1144 or e-mail to rpsc@interlog.com. Information will not be accepted by telephone. **THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE RPSC.**

Pour que votre évènement soit inscrit dans cette section du philatéliste canadien veuillez envoyer tous les détails au Bureau national de la SRPC, C.P. 929, Succ. 'Q', Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1. Les détails peuvent être faxés au (416) 979-1144 ou par poste-électronique é rpsc@interlog.com. Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. **CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC.**

REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

MAY 24: Owen Sound Stamp Show at the Lumley Bayshore Centre. Open from 9 am to 5 pm, including exhibits, door prizes, show covers, buy and sell. Information: Bob Ford, 721 8th Avene East, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 3A4.

MAY 30: SAIJEX '98, Stamp Show and Auction, organized by the Saint John Stamp Club at Keddy's Fort Howe Hotel, Salon B&C, 2nd floor. Open 10 am to 5 pm, auction at 2 pm, dealers buying and selling, Post Office will be in attendance. Admission: $2.00 (children free). Information: James Young (506) 633-9704.

MAY 30 - 31: First Annual Postcard Exhibition & Stamp Bourse at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC. Admission by donation, children free. Open competition, junior entries are welcome. First 75 attendees receive 15 free postcards, special commemorative postcards available for this inaugural event.

JUNE 26-27: SCOPEX 98, organized by the Mount Nittany Philatelic Society, State College, PA, at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA. Open exhibits and bourse. Data from K. Martin, MNPS, P.O. Box 902, State College, PA, 16804, USA.

OCTOBER 3 - 4: VICPEX 1998, Stamp Exhibition, Postcard Show and Bourse at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC. Sponsored by the Greater Victoria Philatelic Society, Vancouver Island Philatelic Society and Victoria Junior Stamp Club. For Information and Prospectus write to Show Chairman, Box 5164, Station B, Victoria, BC, V8R 6N4. Tel. (250) 721-1940 (evenings).

OCTOBER 24: 37th Annual Exhibition and Dealers' Bourse presented by the Barris District Stamp Club at the Sunnidale Community Centre, Sunnidale Road, Barrie, ON. Hours 10 am to 5 pm, 12 Dealers, admission is free.

OCTOBER 24: Brantford Stamp Club annual exhibition and bourse at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street, Brantford, 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm. Free admission and parking, 13 dealers, sales circuit, beginners' booth, exhibits, lunch counter, Draws and prizes. For more information contact Show Convenor, Brantford Stamp Club, P.O. Box 25003, West Brant Postal

Outlet, 119 Colborne Street West, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 6K5.

NOVEMBER 20 - 22: Greater Montréal Stamp Show, exhibition and bourse. Presented by the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association and the AQPP in collaboration with La Fédération québéoise de philatélie at Place Bonaventure, Montréal, Québec. Free admission, hourly door prizes, youth activities. Hours Friday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Information: (416) 979-3335.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

1998

MAY 29 - 31: ROYAL *1998* ROYALE, annual convention, exhibition and dealers' 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.

OCTOBER 16 - 18: GREATER TORONTO STAMP SHOW, sponsored by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, The RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation and Canada Post Corporation and presented by the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association at the Queen Elizabeth Building and Theatre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario. Hours: Friday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Information: Box 1123, Adelaide Street Post Office, Toronto, ON, M5C 2K5. Telephone (416) 979-3335.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

1998

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

JUNE 2 - 7: LORCA '98, under the auspices of the FIP, a world philatelic literature exhibition and Mophila Salon, Granda, Spain. Entry forms and brochures available from P.O. Box 100, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON, M5X 1B2, CANADA.

JUNE 18 - 21: JUVALUX '98, an FIP Sponsored Youth and Postal History show to be held in Luxembourg. Commissioner: Pére Jean-Claude Lafleur, 4900 rue St-Félix, St-Augustin, QC G3A 1X3.

OCT. 20 - 25: ILSAPEX 98, FIP sponsored show at Gallagher's Estate Exhibition Centre, 20 minutes from Johannesburg, South Africa. Information from the 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 Commissioner: Mr. Peter Madej, 30 Ormskirk Court, Toronto, ON M6S 1B1.

NOV. 20 - 29: ESPAMER '98, FIAF Sponsored exhibition in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Individuals interested in exhibiting please contact Mr. Harry Sutherland, P.O. Box 100, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON, M5X 1B2.

1999

FEB. 25 - 28: AMERICAS 99, under the patronage of the FIAF and recognized by the FIP, to be held in Orlando, Florida (USA). Entry forms available from Harry Sutherland, P.O. Box 100, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON, M5X 1B2. Deadline for applications at the American Philatelic Society is July 1, 1998.

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.

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. Commissioner: Maj. R.K. Malott, 16 Harwick Cres., Ottawa, ON K2H 6R1; (613) 829-0280; fax (613) 829-0280.

JULY 2 - 11: PHILEX FRANCE 99, World Exhibition with FIP patronage, to be held in Paris, France. Commissioner: Dr. J.J. Danielski, 71 Gennela Sq., Scarborough, ON M1B 5M7; (416) 283-2047. E-mail: be017@freenet.toronto.on.ca. Entry forms now available from Commissioner, entries close June 15, 1998.

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

2000

MAY 28 - JUNE 4: WIPA2000 in Vienna, Austria. Canadian Commissioner: Otto F. Zeman, 702-150 Queen Street South, Kitchener, ON, N2G 4T7, CANADA.

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: P.O. Box 107, Ajax, ON L1S 3C3. For information, contact Sam Calnek (905) 831-9886.

AMICALE des PHILATÉLISTES de L'OUTAOUAIS

L'APO, chapitre 190 de la SRPC, se réunit tous les jeudi de début septembre é fin avril, de 18h30 é 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.

CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE "LES TIMBRES" DE BOISBRIAND

Section adulte: Tous les lundis soir de 19h. é 21h. au sous-sol de la Bibliothéque Municipale 901 Grande Allée, Boisbriand. Section junior: Tous les samedis matin de 9h. é 10.30h. débutants. Tous les samedis matin de 10.30h. é 12h. intermédiaires et avancés au chalet du parc Pellerin, 275 rue Pellerin, Boisbriand.

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 (2:00-4:00 pm) and 3rd Tuesday year round (7:30-9:30 pm) at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.) Brampton, 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 pm. Kerby Centre, 1133 7 Ave. SW. No meetings July and August; no auction December. Correspon-dence 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 for Canadian and USA members is $15 and for all other countries $20.00. No formal meetings but members meet at the RA Stamp Club meetings at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ont., at 7:30 pm every Monday except June, July and August. Information: Ron Miyanishi, 124 Gamble Ave., Toronto ON M4J 2P3. Tel: (416) 421-5846

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 Bet Joseph Lubavitch, 44 Edinburgh Street East, Toronto. Contact: Joseph Berkovits, 33 - 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, M5A 1N1. Tel. (416) 635-1749.

COLBORNE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 205 meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month September to May inclusive at 7 pm, in the Drop-in Centre, Victoria Square, Colborne, Ont. All stamp collectors welcome, including Juniors age 10-16 years. 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 June, 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. Tel: (416) 425-1541.

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

Touring stampers, new members and guests are welcome to visit Edmonton's 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)

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

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

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 STAMP CLUB

Chapter 51 meets at 6 pm on 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays, Sept. to June except holidays, and 2nd Mondays July, at Bishop Ryan Secondary School, Quigley Road and Albert Street, in east-end Hamilton, ON. Visitors and juniors welcome. Information: Clare Maitland (Secretary), Box 60510, 673 Upper James St., Hamilton ON L9C 7N7.

KAWARTHA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 58, 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 at 7 p.m., Dr. Knox Middle School Cafeteria, 1555 Burtch Ave. Visitors welcome. Information: Box 1185, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7P8.

KENT COUNTY STAMP CLUB (CHATHAM, ON)

Chapter 7 meets 4th Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December) in the library of John McGregor Secondary School, 300 Cecile, at 7:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Information from Secretary: Abie Heersma, 73 Jasper Ave., 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 the 2nd Wednesday and last Friday of each month, September to June at the Herb Carroll Centre, 1100 Lincoln St., Thunder Bay ON. Meetings start at 8pm; 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 7pm. Information: Oleg Podymow, President, P.O. Box 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, 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

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December which are m onthly), 7:30 p.m. at Bracebridge United Church, 46 Dominion Street N., Bracebridge, ON. Varied programs, presentations, sales, circuit books, etc. For information, please contact the president: Tom Anderson, 7 Sadler Drive, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1K4. Tel: (705) 645-3330.

NORTH BAY & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 44 meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, September to May, at the Casselholme 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 when meetings are held on only the 3rd Wednesday)) at 6:30 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 Moffatt, Box 62, Willowdale ON M2N 5S7. Tel (905) 889-8720.

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.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191 meetins the third Wednesday of every month, 7pm at St. GeorgeÆs Anglican Church, 149 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound, ON. Activities include trading, auctions, circuit books. Visitors always welcome. For information contact Robert J. Ford, 721 8th Ave. East, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 3A4.

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, prize draws, 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. Visitors always welcome. Information: K. Giessen, 217 Redwing Pl., Penticton BC V2A 8K6. Tel.: (250) 493-0188.

PERTH STAMP CLUB

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from September to June, 7:30 p.m. in McMartin House, Gore Street. Visitors welcome. For information, contact Gus Quattrocchi (A.J.), 69 Harvey Street, Perth, ON, K7H 1X1.

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 the 4th Wednesday of each month (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, 16 Mountain Road, Saint John, NB, E2J 2W8

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 2nd and 4th 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

SIDNEY STAMP CLUB (SIDNEY BC)

The Sidney Stamp Club meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, except July and August, at the Sidney Regional Library, in the Nell Horth Room, at 2:00 pm. Sales circuit, presentations, and auctions every meeting. Visitors welcome. Information: (250) 479-6513

LA SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE QUÉBEC

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au sous-sol de l'église St-Rodrigue, 4760 1ére avenue, porte no 10, Charlesbourg. Les réunions ont lieu de 19h é 22h. Pour information, écrire é: S.P.Q., C.P. 2023, Québec, PQ, G1K 7M9

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.

STRATFORD STAMP CLUB

Chapter 92 meets on the 4th Thursday from September to June (except December when it meets on the 3rd Thursday), 7pm at the Kiwanis Community Centre, Lakeside Drive, Stratford. Juniors meet at 7p.m., with regular meetings at 8p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Information from P.O. Box 21031, Stratford, ON N5A 7V4.

SUDBURY STAMP CLUB

Chapter 85 meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, September to June, in Library at St. Raphael School, 109 Dublin Street, Sudbury, at 7:30 p.m. Meetings include slide shows, presentations, and an auction. New members are welcome. Information: David Squarzolo, Box 2211, Stn. A, Sudbury, ON, P3A 4S1; (705) 566-0378.

TORONTO HARMONIE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 94 meets the 3rd 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, third and fourth Tuesdays (except July and August), 7:30 pm at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, (Bloor/Islington area). Auctions, dealers, speakers, study group, annual exhibition. Visitors always welcome. Correspondence: 331 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9B 2L9. Tel: Contact Frank Alusio (416) 621-8232.

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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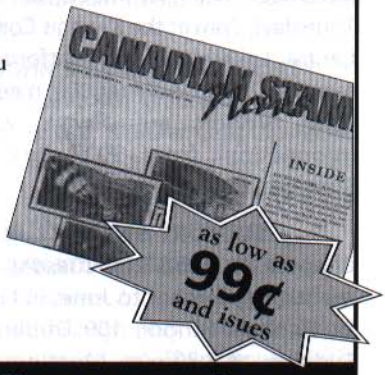


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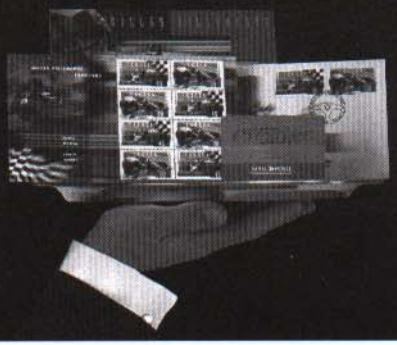
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R. Maresch & Son
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Attention: Bill Maresch and Rick Sheryer

Dear Bill and Rick,

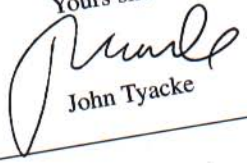
Many thanks to you and your staff at R. Maresch & Son for all your hard work in selling my West Indies collections so effectively.

I really appreciated your letting me review the descriptions and lotting for my part of the auction, although, in the event I had little to add to the excellent work you had done. Fellow collectors told me that Toronto was the wrong place to sell West Indies – your results proved them wrong. You certainly performed far better than major auction houses in Europe to which I have consigned material in the past. My worries about having my material among the last lots in a five-session, 2800-lot auction were also proven to be groundless.

I should also like to pass on to you the comments of several fellow-collectors from overseas to the effect that they were very pleased to bid with complete confidence on lots where your wonderfully accurate colour illustrations gave them a true feeling for the colour shades that can be so important in our hobby.

You did me proud – many thanks!

Yours sincerely,



John Tyacke

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