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Journal of The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
Revue de La SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA
VOL. 50 • NO. 6
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999 NOVEMBRE-DÉCEMBRE

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The Canadian Philatelist
Le philatéliste canadien

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Publication Date: November 1, 1999

Volume 50, No. 6 Whole Number 294 295 Nov.-Dec. 1999 Nov.-Dec.

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The Cover:

The card illustrated on the cover is typical of the size and style seen in the 1880s. The poem on the reverse side reads: **A Christmas Message**

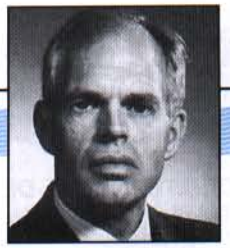
There creaks on the wintry stillness
A knealing of distant bells,
A soft sweet undulation
A story of gladness tells.

'Tis the message of holy Angels,
Come telling so long ago,
Of peace and good will to all men,
Who dwell on this earth below.

OH! then to the lowly manger,
In spirit let all repair,
To worship the new born Saviour,
Laying encradled there.

The Canadian Philatelist (ISSN 00-45-5253) published bimonthly by Philaprint Inc. PO Box 100. First Canadian Place, Toronto. Ont., M5X 1B2.. Printed and produced in Canada by Trajan Publishing Corporation. ©Philaprint Inc. 1997. Opinions expressed herein are those of individual authors only and neither the Publisher nor The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada accepts responsibility for them. Manuscripts should be typewritten or submitted on computer disk. Only original articles will be considered. Books and Literature for review should be submitted to the editor. None of the editor, the Society, the publisher nor any officer or director either incurs any liability for any article or manuscript or any item accompanying such article for photography, all of which are at the sole risk of the person submitting same. Indexed in the Canadian Magazine Index and available on-line in the Canadian Business and Current Affairs Database The Publisher reserves the right to decline any advertising and acceptance does not imply endorsement of the product or service.

Subscription price for members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada $25.00 per year. This amount is included in membership fees and the members automatically receive the journal. Non-members $30.00 per yea.r Changes of Address, undeliverable copies and orders for subscriptions should be sent to PO Box 929, Station Q, Toronto. Ont., M4T 2P1.Return Postage Guaranteed. Publications Mail Registration No. 09828.



President's Page / La page du président

by/par Keith Spencer

In September, Bev and I packed up our bags and headed west to Vernon where we attended the annual meeting of our British North American Philatelic Society friends. We "Royalites" share many members and interests in common and it was a grand weekend. Congratulations to a hard working organizing committee for their hosting of a wonderful and successful show.

As we talked with the many collector and dealer friends who travelled to Vernon, I was reminded again that stamp collecting is as much about the collecting of friends as it is about accumulating stamps. My appetite for more is certainly tuned up and fortunately there is a full menu of upcoming national and local shows to choose from. On March 24-27, the Edmonton Spring National comes to the famous Fantasyland. Our Ottawa friends host Orapex on the weekend of May 6-7. This national show is special because it includes an important literature competition as well as an excellent exhibition of stamps.

The week prior, April 28-30 in Winnipeg, we will join with our Manitoba friends to celebrate Royal *2000* Royale and the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society. Yes, it's cold in Winnipeg in the winter, wet in the spring and too hot in the summer – and the Jets have gone south. But still, in Winnipeg is a whole club-full of absolutely wonderful people who are just waiting to shake your hand at Portage and Main and to welcome you to a really great Royal. It may seem early to be packing your bags for your Winnipeg trip, but you can buy your toothbrush now. See you at the show!

Members occasionally have membership and other sorts of administrative concerns. The Parr and Associates staffer who serves as RPSC representative is the keen and enthusiastic Keitha Frederick. What better recommendation than a first name like that! Got a problem? Keitha's telephone number is (416) 979-7474 and she would like to hear from you.

Canada Post continues to produce new stamps at a great rate and this is a concern for many of our members. A quick review of stamp magazine new issue columns suggests that a great many stamp issuing countries have jumped on the millennium bandwagon. Of course, they only do it because collectors are lined up to buy whatever is printed. It is just about a full time job to keep up with the licking and sticking required to mount all these new goodies in our bulging albums.

One of my favourite new Canadian millennium stamps is the one issued for pablum – either the invention or the eating of it, I'm not sure. But I see that there is a new stamp issue up and coming that I think is going to be my new favourite. It's the Alexander Keith stamp which will commemorate the invention of beer – I think. What a great last name Alexander chose – and doesn't a little Halifax brew put all that pablum to shame!

See you at your nearest Canada Post stamp wicket!

Cheers,

Keith

En septembre, Bev et moi nous sommes rendus à Vernon pour assister à la réunion annuelle de nos collègues de la BNAPS (British North America Philatelic Society). Nous, Royalistes, avons de nombreux intérêts en commun avec eux et ce fut une superbe fin de semaine. Félicitations au comité organisateur pour son hospitalité et ses efforts qui ont fait de l'exposition un grand succès.

En bavardant avec nos nombreux amis collectionneurs et négociants qui sont venus eux aussi à Vernon, je me suis redit que la philatélie consistait autant à collectionner les amis que les timbres. Mon intérêt a certainement été relancé de plus belle et de nombreuses expositions nationales et locales sont heureusement au programme. Du 24 au 27 mars, l'exposition nationale de printemps d'Edmonton aura lieu au célèbre Fantasyland. Nos amis d'Ottawa organiseront Orapex les 6 et 7 mai. Ce salon national sera spécial car il comprendra un important concours de documentation en plus d'une excellente exposition de timbres.

La semaine d'avant, du 26 au 30 avril, nous nous joindrons à nos amis de Winnipeg pour célébrer ROYAL *2000* ROYALE et le centenaire de leur société philatélique. Eh oui, à Winnipeg, les hivers sont rigoureux, les printemps pluvieux et les étés torrides (et les Jets se sont expatriés au sud), mais Winnipeg possède un super club de merveilleux philatélistes qui sont impatients de vous serrer la main à l'angle de Portage et Main, et de vous accueillir chez eux comme un des leurs. Peut-être est-il encore un peu tôt pour commencer vos bagages pour Winnipeg, mais vous pouvez déjà acheter la brosse à dents. Rendez-vous à l'expo!

Les membres ont parfois quelques soucis avec leur inscription et autres problèmes administratifs. La représentante attitrée de la SRPC chez Parr and Associates est l'assidue et enthousiaste Keitha Frederick. Avec un tel prénom, je ne puis que vous la recommander vivement! Vous pouvez la joindre au (416)-979-7474. Elle attend vos appels avec impatience.

Postes Canada continue à produire de nombreux nouveaux timbres, ce qui est parfois un problème pour de nombreux membres. Un rapide coup d'oeuil dans les derniers magazines philatéliques confirme que de nombreux pays émetteurs de nouveaux timbres suivent le courant du millénaire. Bien sûr, la seule raison est que les collectionneurs se bousculent pour acheter tout ce qui sort. Coller tous ces nouveaux venus dans nos albums est pratiquement devenu une activité à plein temps.

L'un de mes timbres préférés du millénaire est celui émis pour Pablum (je ne sais plus si c'est pour l'invention ou la dégustation). Mais un autre vient d'arriver et il va sûrement être mon nouveau favori. Il s'agit du timbre Alexander Keith qui commémore l'invention de la bière. Quel nom de famille formidable cet Alexander a choisi, et personne ne s'opposera à ce qu'un bon petit nectar de brasserie d'Halifax renvoie Pablum au vestiaire!

Rendez-vous à votre guichet Postes Canada le plus proche!

Sincères salutations.

Keith

Dear Editor

Dear Editor:

As a follow-up on the cover article May-June issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, I thought you just might like to know that The Panama Canal Story exhibit received the Grand Award at the American Topical Association Show in Milwaukee this past weekend.

R.W. Ireson

Roxboro, QC

Dear Editor:

I have been a collector for many years and have become interested in stamps of Canada and Latin American countries (principally, Colombia), in either Mint or Used condition. In exchange I can offer stamps of Spain and other European countries.

Correspondence can be exchanged in English or Spanish.

Eduardo Garcia Arias

Apartado 1294, La Coruna, Spain

Dear Editor:

Recently I wrote to Canada Post who suggested I contact you because, as a bed-ridden invalid, I very much enjoy being able to collect Used stamps from all over the world. I wondered if you could give me any information on how I might obtain some from Canada?

I often read of different countries and I find stamps (and their postmarks) are also a wonderful insight into the cultures and concerns of people worldwide.

I would be grateful for any information you could send me regarding Used stamps of your country, if it would be convenient for you to do so.

With my thanks and kind regards,

Christine Oxlee

13 Post Office Rd., Glenorie, New South Wales 2157

Dear Editor:

I am a senior research associate, head of Research Community for Better International Correspondence by mail worldwide as well as with Canada. We would like to remanage all of the international correspondence for the Hungarian philatelist and all the Hungarian people who can speak and write the English language. We are very interested about history, details of international reply coupons, international societies, clubs in Canada and worldwide.

I hope you can send some books, articles, syllabus, maybe advice for better international correspondence for everybody (philatelists, collectors and so on...) with the English language for better international correspondence by post.

I am waiting for your reply and for your help.

Thank you.

Dr. Miklós Szinay

Head of Research, Community for Better International Correspondence by Post

P.O. Box 78, H-1725 Budapest XX., Hungary, Europe

Dear Editor:

Can you help me out? Need stamps to use in trade with certain American Club members for their colour sets and duplicates. Enjoy the Icon. Peace be with you.

In God's Love, I am

Bishop Michael, Hermit-Monk

Fire and Ice Hermitage, Rt. 590, Budardalr, Kvennaholl, Iceland

Dear Editor:

Yellow backs – clever fakes.

Stamps with yellow backs have been known in Canadian philately for over 25 years now, some with catalogue status (Scottish settlers).

Richard Gratton has proven without doubt that these are clever chemical fakes. This information has been published in *Philatélie Québec* in November 1995 (issue no. 197).

Today I am sending you a sample to prove my point!

Explanation of Yellow Backs: 1. The presence of yellow on the back of the stamps are due to a chemical treatment made after the stamps were out of the printer's doors. 2. Stamp paper has starch as one of its base constituent (nearly five per cent). 3. Starch can also be present in the gum in the case of dextrin type gums. 4. Vapours of iodine in solution can react with the starch in the paper. 5. If the right amount of vapour and the right concentration of iodine is used during a specific time the colour of the paper becomes yellow (or darker if too long exposition). 6. This test is well known in the paper industry and is used to determine the presence of starch in the various papers.

I am sending a sample of the 1-cent Blueberry definitive with yellow backs and marked FAUX.

I will be happy to answer questions.

Richard Gratton, AIEP

Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie

Windsor, QC

Editorial

by Bill Pekonen

This issue contains partly new, fresh material from new sources and partly from cleaning out the backlog of articles – some of which have been sitting in the files for many months waiting for a spot to be published.

Some of the articles are by contributors who have written before and their continued support is encouraged. There seems to be two main themes. The first is entertainment. The second is the passing on of knowledge.

Many stamp collectors have recently been attracted to our hobby. They may or may not be attending regular stamp club meetings where they can rub shoulders with more experienced collectors and where they can gain much basic knowledge. Some are too busy to attend and want to read publications such as this one. Herein is the opportunity for experienced stamp collectors to pass on some of the helpful tips, hints and results of valuable research information to others.

An example of such knowledge transfer is the series of articles starting in this issue and written by a stamp collector with the nom-de-plume of Napoleon. He is writing about the stamps issued by France. To balance the old with the new, Joseph Monteiro gives us the benefit of his research into the Fruit Trees and Edible Berries issues of Canada. Some of the modern day errors could be the real rarities of the future. It raises the question – are these to be considered as a good investment? And if so, at what price? What do you believe?

Kenneth Rowe has written a brief history about the birth of the RPSC. It is an interesting story which explains the why and how.

Rowe also sent in the text of a speech given about 65 years ago. The exact date is not recorded. It was given by the then Chairman of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Some of the stamps mentioned then as rarities are still rare today. The stamp values today, of course, may be very different. When he talks about $1 million in worth, it is hard to relate to that amount in today's value. One measure could be the salary scale. The average hourly rate was about less than 25 cents per hour working a 48 hour week. The 25 cent/hour rate works out to be about $600 to $625 PER YEAR. A senior manager in those days probably earned $900-$1,000 PER YEAR! You can do your own arithmetic.

The really important part of the speech is his reference to the need for a hobby and the benefits of philately. The benefits outweigh the financial aspects of philately and the hope for some gain or appreciation in value. Those factors are just as valid today as they were even 150 years ago when stamp collecting began to catch on around the world. In the fast moving pace with which the world changes even as we watch, the need for relaxation and positive recreation may even be more important now than then. The message he gives about a longer life being possible should be enough incentive in itself.

Raconteur describes his experiences. David Allen tells a remarkable story about two covers mailed 96 years ago. These two covers were recently re-united through a combination of luck and the use of new technology which was undreamed of when the covers were created.

And then, picking up from Allen's viewpoint, there is a think piece from a part time dealer's point of view written by Dan Mayo. Alec Unwin thought this piece should get wider circulation because of the subject matter. He wants to know what others may think about philately and computers. So here is what might be regarded as a negative approach by some and a looking forward approach by others. Does a collector really need a computer to enjoy philately? How much difference does it make to you? Is the computer a necessity or only a tool? Is it worth the investment of both money and time? How can you use it to its best advantage? Where? Why? Find out what Mayo has concluded.

Other interesting stories are included in this issue. Arlene Sullivan writes about how, at a modest cost, she has explored the world of Belgian Bandelettes. An Opusculum article provided by the Philatelic Research Foundation discusses Submarine Arctic Operations.

They all demonstrate the spirit of philately, the sharing of knowledge and a view of the challenges facing all of us. Write your story and share your experiences so that we can all enjoy the pleasures you have encountered. Express your opinions so we can work together to find acceptable solutions. We have almost cleaned out the barrel. We need more articles for the next issue. As previously promised, the *Writer's Guidelines* are reproduced elsewhere in this issue. We hope you will be inspired to put your thoughts down on paper and send them along.

This is your publication – with articles by and for the members. The response to our previous requests for material has been disappointing. If this publication is to continue, then the future success is up to you. The plain fact is that there is not enough material on hand to produce the next edition. The next submission date for copy to the publisher for the start of the year 2000 is December 19th. If there is not enough material on hand by that date, the publication of the next issues will be delayed until who knows when. This is a sad note on which to end the year 1999, but that is the reality of the situation. Hopefully, with your co-operation, we can move ahead.

ART AND PHILATELY

A HUMAN INTEREST STORY



by J. J. Edward

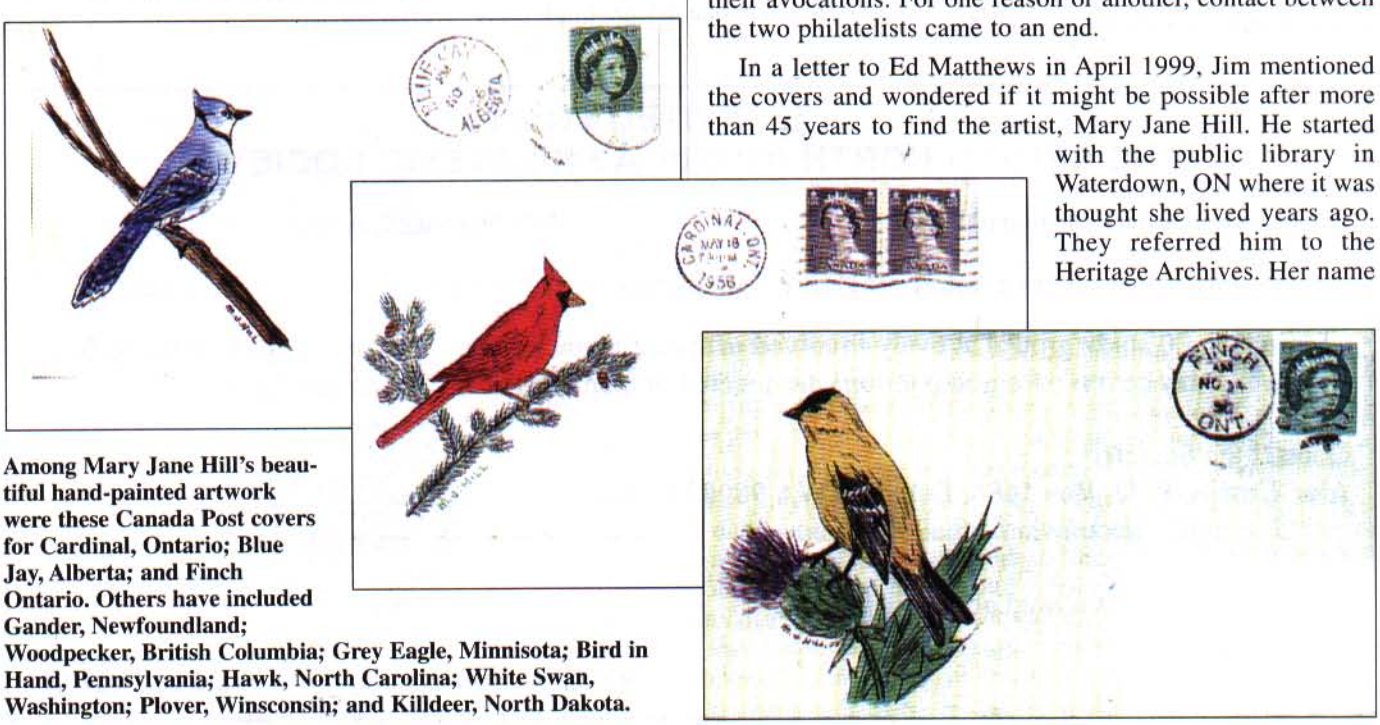
The above notice appeared in the *Flamborough Review*, a respected local weekly newspaper.

It all started in April 1999 with an exchange of correspondence between Ed Matthews of Oakville, ON and Jim Kraemer of Nepean, ON. With a surge of interest in hand painted covers particularly in the United States, Jim Kraemer remembered he still had a number of hand painted covers acquired from the 1953-1955 period. The covers were all cancelled at a post office bearing a bird's name. Some of the covers were autographed by the postmaster and many were from post offices which have closed. All of the covers have a hand painted image of the bird noted in the post office's name such as Blue Jay, California; Cardinal, Kentucky; Grouse, Idaho, etc.

In the hand painted design of each cover are the initials and name of the artist, M.J. Hill. Jim remembered that back in the early 1950s he obtained postmarks on covers from post offices bearing a bird's name. Mary Jane Hill and Jim were members of the Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society that met once a month in Kitchener, ON. They were also members of the Grand River Philatelic Association that consisted of clubs in Galt, Guelph, Brantford and other communities near by. The clubs met once a month in a different city in the local club's quarters. Jim showed his covers to Mary Jane Hill suggesting that they would be enhanced if hand painted illustrations of the bird noted in the cancellation were to be added to the covers. Mary Jane had a deep interest in art as well as in philately. A deal was struck. Jim would supply the cancelled covers in pairs. Mary Jane would hand paint the illustrations, keep one for her collection and return the other to Jim.

As so often happens, people move, some change their interests and some become too busy to continue pursuing their avocations. For one reason or another, contact between the two philatelists came to an end.

In a letter to Ed Matthews in April 1999, Jim mentioned the covers and wondered if it might be possible after more than 45 years to find the artist, Mary Jane Hill. He started with the public library in Waterdown, ON where it was thought she lived years ago. They referred him to the Heritage Archives. Her name



Among Mary Jane Hill's beautiful hand-painted artwork were these Canada Post covers for Cardinal, Ontario; Blue Jay, Alberta; and Finch Ontario. Others have included Gander, Newfoundland; Woodpecker, British Columbia; Grey Eagle, Minnisota; Bird in Hand, Pennsylvania; Hawk, North Carolina; White Swan, Washington; Plover, Winsconsin; and Killdeer, North Dakota.



Mary Jane Stewart

could not be found so they suggested the Assessment Rolls. Still no luck, Ed tried the Cornerstone Art Gallery now re-located to Campellville. Here, he drew a blank but they suggested that he might try "the Hill family living on Main Street in Waterdown, next to the Presbyterian church." By now, the story was becoming monotonous. They could not help either. Arts Flamborough, a community culture group, was the last straw. Their collective memory went back a long way, but they could not help. Perhaps Mary Jane was on vacation in Waterdown or painting the covers was just a pastime and then she went on her way.

Finally Ed got a brain wave and went to see Lori Ann Hill, (no relation to Mary Jane Hill), editor of the *Flamborough Review*, a weekly community newspaper that had been published for many years. As a public relations gesture and because the story would be of public interest, they suggested running a short note in the paper. The note reproduced at the head of this article appeared in the *Flamborough Review* on Saturday April 21, 1999.

Pay dirt! Within a few days, Ed received more than half a dozen telephone calls from people who had known the artist, Mary Jane Hill. She was born in Cambridge, ON, on October 23, 1938, and as a young girl moved to Waterdown. She lived in the red house on the northeast corner of Mill Street and Dundas Road (Highway 5), for about 10 years. It was here that she hand painted the envelopes illustrated in this article. She operated an art school at this location. Mary Jane married Gordon Stewart, the town's tax collector. They eventually settled in St. George, ON, a pretty little town on Highway 5 west of Waterdown. There is a barn on the property which Mary Jane turned into an art studio. For many years, she taught art to numerous students at this location. Mary Jane used oils, water colours, inks and other mediums in her paintings.

Among her many achievements in the field of art was her design of the logo for the new Town of Flamborough when a number of small towns were amalgamated. She won the contest for the best design. Mary Jane was better known by her married name, Mary Jane Stewart.

Not all stories have a happy ending. Mary Jane Stewart died on February 10, 1997 after an illness with cancer.



One of Mary Jane Hill's many artistic accomplishments was to design a new logo for the Corporation of the Town of Flamborough

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BNAPS – *The Society for Canadian Philately*

Frugal Philatelists Collect Belgian "Bandelettes"

by Arlene Sullivan

I do like a good bag of off paper worldwide stamps. You never know what you might find and what new collecting avenue you will venture down as a result.

This spring I won a particularly excellent lot of stamps in the silent auction held at the Pacific Northwest Regional BNAPS meeting in Moses Lake, Washington (a highly recommended meeting) – an appealing lot for both the price and the number of unusual stamps it contained.



Belgian bandelette stamps. Brussels Exhibition issues, 1896-1897.

After several pleasant hours of sorting, one group of stamps in particular caught my eye. These were typical definitive stamps, but with a twist – each had a small label attached that indicated in Flemish and French DO NOT DELIVER ON SUNDAY. Scott No. 62, the 2c denomination of the first Belgian definitive set was issued with these labels.

A quick look at my 1968 Scott catalogue, and I learned that Belgian stamps produced between 1893 and 1913, including commemorative stamps, were all issued in this form. Since most are reasonably priced, I decided it would be interesting to form a mini-collection of these tabbed stamps and do a little research to find out more about the unusual instructions they display.

At first glance, you might think these labels were instituted for religious reasons. I have seen them referred to as dominical labels, which would imply that the devout could leave the labels attached and avoid Sunday delivery. The Brussels Exhibition issue of 1897–1898 (Sc. 79-81) shown certainly reflect a deeply religious country, featuring as they do St. Michael slaying the dragon (Sc. 79) and the defeat of Satan (Sc. 80-81).

Alas, I am afraid that the true explanation may be far more pedestrian! Inquiries through a Belgian Website indicate that the tabs, or bandelettes as they are called in Belgium, may have been instituted simply to make the postman's job easier. Leaving the bandelette in place meant one less Sunday delivery and, human nature being what it was, the tab was probably left in place more often than not. I assume that this is why the stamps indicate no delivery on Sunday, rather than requesting Sunday delivery.

In 1913, Sunday delivery of mail ended in Belgium, making the bandelettes unnecessary whatever the reason for their initial use. While these stamps are relatively inexpensive, finding nice copies of either Used or Mint stamps can take some searching. To make things more interesting, you could look for stamps with the bandelettes attached on the top of stamp, like the Sc. 92.

I have yet to find these stamps used correctly on a cover and I suspect that a collection of this sort would take some dedicated searching to put together.

Another thing to look for to widen your collection would be Belgian postal stationery produced during this same time period. I have a couple of used postcards which had an area under the stamp impression equivalent to the bandelette. In this case, instructions at the bottom of the card noted that the NE PAS LIVRER....area could be struck out. Perhaps not surprisingly, the bandelette area is left undefaced, although I'm not sure that there was any kind of reciprocal agreement with Austria on Sunday delivery. Again, whether or not the English post office honoured the request is not clear (something else I need to research while working on this collection) but the cover does nicely illustrate the usage of the postal stationery bandelette.

A correspondent of mine has noted that, being a small country, Belgium stamps are relatively unknown and undiscovered. While there are many Belgian rarities – as the recent Soeteman Auction at BRUPHILEX shows by the number of record prices set – on the whole, Belgian stamps are still reasonable and can form the basis for a number of interesting collections such as the one I've outlined here.

If you are looking at expanding your collecting horizons, this might be a place to start. Love those bags of worldwide. Vive la bandelette!

Some sources of information: Thanks to knowledgeable Belgian dealer Corneille Soeteman for information on the Belgian bandelettes. M. Soeteman has a most useful website with a question-and-answer section for Belgian philately in English, French and Flemish. While the site is still under construction, it is worth a look at www.soeteman.com. If you would like to venture beyond Scott, the *Officiele Belgische Netto Katalogus* is a beautiful hardcover, colour catalogue that covers Belgian philately and includes former Belgian colonies in Africa. There is also an extensive listing of European "Europa" stamps appended. While the catalogue is in Flemish/Dutch, it is surprisingly easy to follow if you have some grasp of philatelic terms.

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by Charles J. Phillips

The More Things Change, the More they Seem to be the Same

Reminiscences of 40 Years of Stamp Collecting

Editor's Note: The following is the text given in a speech during the 1930s. There is no known record of the exact date.

Some years ago I attended a banquet in London where Lord Roberts of Kandahar presided. He said that there were three great requisites for a public speaker:

1st. Stand up and be seen.

2nd. Speak up and be heard.

3rd. Shut up and sit down.

If I fail in any of these, please let me know.

I have been asked to address you today on philately with some reminiscences of the older days and as I have dealt in postage stamps since 1886 and for 32 years was Chairman of the greatest stamp dealing firm in the world – Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of London – I can claim to speak as one having had a great many curious experiences in a very busy life.

The collecting of postage stamps commenced in the early 1850s and later on the word philately was used to designate the followers of that hobby. This was derived from two Greek words: philos, meaning fond of; and ateleia, meaning exemption from tax. That is to say, a love for the stamps that exempted the letter from further taxation.

The word philatelist is a great bugbear to the outsider. I had an example of this at the Rotary Convention at Los Angeles where I was as a delegate from the London Rotary Club. A local man came up to me and got my name and club and said, "What is your classification, Charlie?" I said "Philatelist. I suppose that's got you?" He replied "Oh, no. You deal in ladies' underclothing."

I am a great believer in a hobby. Every businessman should have a hobby, something he can turn to after the toil of the day as a rest and a recreation.

I have read somewhere of a well-known man, who, in the closing days of his life, confessed he had two great regrets as he looked back. One was that he had not cultivated the art of making and keeping friends and the other that he had no hobby.

One of the chief values of a hobby is that it helps to preserve the poise of life. The unbalanced life is the life badly lived. Now, a hobby preserves the balance in two ways: positively by providing new stores of health by means of the pleasure it yields for all true pleasure is healthy; and negatively by substituting one set of activities for another, which is the essence of refreshment.

There are good and bad hobbies just as there are good and bad habits. I will give you an example of a bad one.

One of my friends in London made a comfortable fortune and at the age of 50 retired from business. He had had no hobby up to that critical time of life, but he took up collecting – not stamps but wives. To my knowledge, he had six wives, but he rode his hobby to death for it killed him.

A great English doctor, Sir Lauder Brunton, recently said at a dinner in London, "A great many people die from the very simply malady of having nothing to do. When they retire from active work, they die of sheer ennui. Sometimes, they come to me and complain of so many things and say they have nothing to do. I tell them to collect stamps. It will add 10 years to their life. The wise men do so. The others do not, and the wise men live on. That is the use of collecting stamps at the end of life."

Given the need for a hobby, which is the best one that a man can take up?

Great collections of pictures, furniture, books, tapestries, porcelains, etc., can only be made by men like Morgan, Huntington and Frick who can build great galleries to house their treasures.

The great bulk of mankind must be content with a hobby that will occupy little space. To a certain extent coins, book plates, etc., fall within this category, but in postage stamps, as I hope to show you, we have the best and the most portable of all hobbies.

Stamp collecting is so popular because it satisfies many of the instincts most deeply rooted in human nature. It appeals to our liking for pictures and the love of colour; the desire for romance, the call of the past, the lure of art and beauty, the craving for novelty, the detective instinct, the desire for knowledge and the spirit of scientific research, the competition and collecting instinct and the attraction of possible gain.

Postage stamps were first issued in Great Britain May 6, 1840, followed by Switzerland and Brazil in 1843 and the United States in 1847 and Canada in 1850.

Many of the uninitiated seem to think that stamp collecting is only a schoolboy hobby, but this is quite opposite to facts.

In Canada, you have many great collectors, some of whom are showing here today. I just note Dr. Louis Reford of Montreal, Senator J.A. Calder of Ottawa, my dear old friend General Robert Rennie of Toronto and Frank Alexander of Winnipeg.

The Americans who have the largest and most valuable collections are Arthur Hind of Utica, the owner of the largest general collection in the world. Col. E.H.R. Green of New York, Alfred L. Caspary, Alfred L. Lichtenstein, The Hon. E.R. Ackerman, Charles Lathrop Pack, the father of American afforestation, John Pillsbury of Milwaukee, Wm. H. Crocker of San Francisco, Al L.D. Warner, the sugar king and Theo. E. Steinway of the famous piano firm, many of these have over a million dollars worth of stamps.

To show you how universal this hobby is, I note a few of the best known foreign collectors of distinction. H.M. King George V has been a collector since he was a midshipman on the Bacchante. He collects only stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies and his collection is certainly worth over $1 million today. Some time ago, H.M. wrote to a personal friend in regard to stamp collecting. "It is one of the greatest pleasures of my life."

H.R.H. Gustavus Adolphus, Crown Prince of Sweden, specializes in stamps of Scandinavia and Europe.

H.M. King Alfonso XIII, is an enthusiastic collector of the stamps of Spain and her Colonies and also France and Portugal.

H.M. King Ahmed Fuad of Egypt, has a superb collection and I have made many sales to him, notably a collection of Confederate States Issues I sold him for $10,000 and which I would now be glad to buy back for a 50-per-cent profit.

H.R.H. Prince Hiroyasu Fushimi of Japan is a great collector of the stamps of Asia and a very good client.

Five of the Maharajahs of India collect and, in fact, stamp collecting is as universal and as popular with the boys of the world as it is with the kings, princes and millionaires.

People have often asked me if this hobby will continue and I well remember that I put this question to the manager of the leading German stamp dealers, Senf Bros. of Leipzig. Theodor Haas replied: "In my opinion, stamps will be collected as long as we make books to put them in and babies to grow up to become collectors and thank God, we make plenty of both in Germany."

Few people realize the enormous literature that exists on stamps and stamp collecting. Some years ago, I gave $10,000 for a collection of stamp books formed by the late J.K. Tiffany. I sold this to the Earl of Crawford who added enormously to it. On his death, he left this to the British Museum. In New York, I am glad to say, we have a larger and more up to date Philatelic Library which is held by the Collectors Club, New York, and contains about 4,000 bound volumes and between 40,000 and 50,000 magazines in all languages.

The joy of the hunt, in stamp collecting as in other hobbies, is often linked with the pleasurable anticipation of picking up something valuable, while in spending real money on any hobby, it is only human nature to try and get one's money's worth.

Many old stamps are very valuable and the fact that finds are continually being made adds zest to collecting.

It may interest you to have a few details of big finds or treasure trove.

In Boston last year, a collector found a box of old letters of the years 1847-1850. He took them to the partners of the firm and offered to buy them. These gentlemen, however, would not take anything and told him to keep them. He went out and bought each of them a box of the finest cigars. When I last heard, he had realized some $13,000 for his find.

Some years ago in Philadelphia, the old banking firm of Townsend & Wheeler moved to new premises and left behind a vast quantity of old papers. These were bought by a local paper stock dealer who found he had made the purchase of his life. I am told he paid $15 for the whole lot and he has realized nearly $75,000 for the stamps, letters and autographs in this find.

I think the most interesting find I have ever heard of in Great Britain.

About 16 or 18 years ago, I had a letter from the General Post Office in London asking me to call and see the Postmaster-General about a find of old British stamps.

I went down there with Major E.B. Evans and was shown 6,000, 1d. and 2d. Mulready envelopes and wrappers, a sheet of about 230, 1d. black of 1840, another sheet of 228, 2d. blue of the same date and a third sheet of about 226, 1d. black V. R's. The face value of the stamps was about $18, the catalogue value now some $35,000.

The stamps were all unused and with full gum.

On asking where such a great find was made, I was told that in rebuilding a portion of the old Post Office in Dublin, Ireland, the workmen had pulled down a lot of shelves and behind them had found a cupboard containing the stamps and Mulreadies.

The theory of the postal officials was that these were all sent from London to the head office in Dublin at the end of April 1840 to be distributed to all the sub-offices in Ireland as samples of what was to be used for postage from May 6, 1840. However, the postmaster at the time had distributed a few to the offices in Dublin then put the rest in a cupboard which had been built over and forgotten for some 70 years. The stamps eventually passed into the collection of the late Earl of Crawford and on the dispersal of his collection by Mr. R.B. Sparrow have been cut up and singles and blocks are in many great collections today.

An interesting find of bisected New Brunswick stamps was made in 1888 in London by Mr. W.B. Thornhill, a member of



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the Royal Philatelic Society. These covers were about 80 in number and were all addressed to a Miss Smith.

They consisted of either two 3d. and half a 3d, or of a 6d, and half a 3d. making up the 7-1/2d. rate to Great Britain.

A well known London dealer recently sent me a batch of New Brunswick covers with pence issues on them. All these were addressed to a firm in Hull, England.

I noticed several covers with the 6d. yellow stamp only, which was not the rate for letters to Great Britain. My friend told me that the dear old lady who sold him this correspondence had carefully removed the damaged bits of the 3d. stamps as she thought they spoiled the look of the covers.

Other interesting finds of British North Americans of which I have some details, are as follows:

The Tucker Baltimore

About 1890 or 1891 Messrs. Burger Bros. of New York secured the bulk of the British North Americans in the great find of the correspondence of Tucker Bros. of Baltimore. Approximately they had, all on covers:

2d. scarlet-vermilion, four pairs all used with the 3d. green to make up the 7d. rate;

4d. vermilion (and some orange) used with 3d. green, about 59 covers;

6d. orange, one only;

6-1/2d. vermilion, four; and

8d. vermilion, one only.

About 41 covers franked with split stamps, mostly the half of the 8d. vermilion used with a 3d. and one 4d. vermilion bisected.

1d. brown-violet, two covers each with four single copies.

4d. rose, 16 covers.

The Maitland & Phelps, New York.

About 1892 that very successful stamp hunter, Walter Ginity, got a portion of the correspondence of Messrs. Maitland & Phelps of New York. For some reason he did not want the name of the firm to appear and the name and number of the street was cut out of every cover he sold. I have not been able to find any real list of what he had, but among those I am sure he had was four covers with the 12d. Canada on laid paper, a fair number of 6d. Canada and a few pairs of New Brunswick 6d. yellow.

The "Lachlan Gibb" Montreal

Many of you will remember the late Mr. Lachlan Gibb, the London Outfitter who had a large shop in Montreal. Mr. Gibb accumulated one of the largest lots of pence issue Canada that has ever been put together. I believe that at one time, some 25 to 28 years ago, he had 1,500 of the 6d. and many of these came from the correspondence of the Bank of Montreal through his friend the late E.B. Greenshields. He sold many hundreds to Henry Calman who sold them wholesale in London for about $1.50 each. When Mr. Gibb retired in about 1911, he took the balance of his stamps to London and placed them with an agent to sell at retail. He then had about a dozen copies of the 12d. – several on covers. Through an accident, the bulk of these were lost – I believe they got into the waste paper basket and were burnt.

The "Kennedy" New York

The correspondence of D.S. Kennedy, Banker, 58 Wall Street, was bought by Mr. Negreen about 1917. This included one 12d. Canada on laid paper and rather over 200 of the 6d. on various papers. He also had about a dozen pairs of New Brunswick 3d. and a few single 6d. yellow, all on covers.

The "Prosser" New York

A small portion of the correspondence of Thos. Prosser & Son, Platt St., New York, was secured when the firm moved to new premises in 1922. Several New York dealers got a portion. I secured about 1,020 covers, all from firms in Canada. Among those I had (about) 6d., four pairs and 25 singles; 3d. perf, two pairs and about a dozen singles; 6d. perf, one; 1859 issues, 10c. in shades; including about 10 of the black-brown, 200 covers. The rest of my covers consisted of letters from Canada of 1857 to 1862 without any stamps. In the Pratt lot, secured by other dealers there were a few covers franked with U.S. 1847 and Canada pence issues in combination.

Some of you will remember when the Marquis of Lorne was Governor-General of Canada. I can tell you a true story about him. Many years ago, after his term had expired in Canada, a gentleman came into my shop in the Strand, London, and offered a 12d. black Canada for sale, unused, full gum and as fresh as when printed. As the stamp was valuable, I went personally to conduct the business and after we had agreed upon the price I asked the name of the vendor, he replied, "I am the Marquis of Lorne." During the next few years, this was repeated several times. He never sold us more than one at a time, but I had four or five copies of your most valuable stamps from him in all.

About 1888, I went up from Birmingham to London one weekend and in passing through Cullem St. in the city, I noticed a nice item on show in a stamp shop and went in and bought it for 10 pounds or about $50. This was a perfect used horizontal strip of three of the 1/- New Brunswick.

This reminds me that the men who kept this shop were the notorious Benjamin & Sarpy and three or four years later on it became my duty as Secretary of the Stamp Trade Protection Society to prosecute these men for stamp frauds and they were sentenced to imprisonment for six months and three years respectively. After their release they vented their spite on me in a curious manner, they bought a little cur dog, named it Phillips and kicked it every morning.

I consider British North American stamps much the best buy today at present prices of any stamps with which I am acquainted and none of the really old issues prior to 1870 have nearly reached their true relative values, compared with most other American and British Colonial stamps of the same epoch.

Footnote: Even now, some 65 years later, you can still hear about spectacular finds. It all depends upon what you are looking for. The same pleasures are still there!

Reunited After 96 Years – A "Tale of Two Parts"

by David Allen

Modern technology plays its part in bringing stamp collectors and their interests together. This is a story about a four bit stamp that was bisected, placed on two separate covers and mailed. And then, 96 years later, how the two covers were again reunited through a rather circuitous route.

Like other collectors, I have been using E-Bay to buy items and also to sell surplus stamps and covers to help pay for things I need for my collection. And, also like other collectors, I find it hard to resist interesting items at a bargain price when visiting with dealers at stamp shows.

E-Bay is an electronic auction board which I find fascinating. This relatively new method grew out from the process used by regular floor auctions who began to advertise their offerings by posting them on a Web page. It is accessed by many computer literate stamp collectors.

At a recent Bellingham show, a very interesting cover was found while leafing through one dealer's boxes (I enjoy visiting and talking with the many dealers at these shows. Over the years, I have made many friends and acquired many interesting additions to my collections.) It was the bottom part of a bisected Danish West Indies stamp on cover dated 1903. It was addressed in a very distinctive hand writing to Fredericksted from Christiansted. Although these stamps were foreign to me and I had never studied them, I did remember some of the circumstances surrounding the disposition of the Danish West Indies to the USA. The price was reasonable and my curiosity was aroused.

Some weeks later, I posted it at E-Bay with my cost as the starting price. Surprisingly, bids came in and the bid price rose to a respectable level by the termination of the auction. It turned out that the buyer was someone living in St. Croix in the American Virgin Islands. He sent me the payment and the cover was mailed to him. Within a week, I received an excited e-mail from the buyer. It turns out that he has in his collection another letter addressed by the same person to Frederiksted, which was franked with the top part of the bisect. The two covers exactly matched the date and location. The buyer's collection was definitely enhanced with the two reunited covers. He was happy, and I was happy.

The moral of the story is that no one should underestimate the power of the electronic media. While it has disadvantages, it also has benefits. In this case, the benefits far outweighed the disadvantages.

Editor's Note: David Allen is a collector from Vancouver, BC, who uses the computer to perform his daily work. He is also one of the organizers of the Great Western Stamp Show, held each year in the local area. Together with Andrew Blanchard, they took a gamble a few years ago and started the show despite the negative comments from many skeptics who thought they would fall flat on their face. At first, they had a difficult time to attract dealers. As it turned out, the first show was a tremendous success, mainly because it catered to collector interests. The show attracted international participants. Now, a few years later, the dealers book for the next year's show well in advance. Allen collects St. Pierre and Miquelon, the Falkland Islands and humorous postcards, amongst other interests.

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Under the Hammer

by Dean Mario

The second sale of R. Maresch & Son's 75 anniversary series on June 29-30 gave collectors another opportunity to add to their collections.

The sale began with Great Britain and a good offering of used 1840 1d Black Queen Victoria singles was offered. Clear to large margin copies sold between $86.25 (lots 41, 42) and $218.50 (lot 40; prices include the 15 per cent buyer's fee). Commonwealth material included such treasures as Hong Kong's mint 1903 King Edward VII issues from the one cent to $5 values (lot 160). Although some stamps had minor faults, the lot still sold for a respectable $977.50 (1999 Scott value of U.S. $1,173).

Canada and BNA material comprised the majority of the 1,711-lot sale. A huge Canadian collection from the 1960s-1990s, comprised of mint NH sets, plates, booklets, stationery, etc., with a face value of $5,000+ (lot 628), reached a final price of $4,312.50. Lot 649 contained an attractive array of 25 different illustrated covers from 1885-1902 (mostly franked with the Small Queen issue). Estimated at $750+, the lot sold for $776.25.

An 1859 one-cent Rose Victoria unused VF horizontal imperf pair in lot 1082 (separated from an imperf block of four) sold for $2,875 against a $5,000 1999 Unitrade value. A well-centered and scarce mint OG 1874 15 cent Grey Purple Large Queen (lot 1191) went to a new home for $3,737.50 (Unitrade $1,875).

Incredibly rare used blocks of four of the high dollar values of the 1897 Jubilee issue tantalized bidders. All bore magenta 1905 CDS cancels from Winnipeg. A $3 block in VF condition reached $2,415 (lot 1355, Unitrade $5,600). Another with fine centering (lot 1356) sold for $1,897.50 (Unitrade $2,800). Lot 1362 held an UR margin block (with a partial plate number) of the $4 value. It realized $3,450 (Unitrade $5,600). Two VF used $5 blocks (lots 1366, 1367) sold for $2,300 and $2,990 respectively.

Early Nova Scotia covers continue to appear on the market and this sale held a number of choice items. Lot 905 held an 1868 transatlantic mourning cover from Halifax to France with two copies of the 1860-63 8-1/2-cent Green Victoria. Estimated at $5,000+, it sold for $12,650. An 1864 cover from Halifax to the U.S., with the 10-cent rate partially paid by a bisected 1860-63 one-cent Black Victoria, sold for $15,525 against an estimate of $4,000+ and a Unitrade value of $6,000 (lot 907). Lot 930 contained an example of the rare 13-1/2 cent rate (paid by a one-cent and 12-1/2 cent stamps) on an 1865 cover from Pugwash, NS to Newfoundland. Estimated at $5,000+, the cover was purchased for $11,500.

Recent material was also offered in the sale. A mint NH (gum disturbed) 1969 6-cent Christmas error with the black printing missing (lot 1613) sold for $920 (Unitrade $3,000). Several examples of mint NH inscription blocks of the 1989 38-cent Regiments issue were offered and sold between $120.75 (lot 1623) and $138 (lot 1621).

The firm plans on conducting a late-September public auction as well as a mail sale before year-end. View the firm's website at: www.maresch.com or telephone (416) 363-7777 for information.

Ron Leith's Philatelic Auctions' results from the firm's February 13, 1999 sale have arrived and many interesting results can be reported. Leith specializes in postal history from around the world as well as stamps.

The sale's premier item (lot 1494), featured in full colour on the catalogue cover, was a 1914 censored cover from Newfoundland to New York. It bore two of the scarce Newfoundland Officially Sealed/Dead Letter Office Seals which made it extremely popular with bidders. Although not the only known cover with the Seals, it did realize $6,900 against an estimate of $7,500+ (prices include the 15 per cent buyer's fee; reserves on postal history set at 50 per cent of estimate).

An attractive illustrated "Allan Line Royal Mail Steamships" Small Queen cover to Port Hope, ON (lot 1094) was estimated at $750+ and fetched $632.50. Several multi-coloured Anglo-Boer War patriotic postcards and covers were offered and were quite popular with bidders too. Lots 1394 and 1395 featured the familiar 1898 and 1899 "Gloria Mundi" and "Rule Brittania" fronts but with unusual commercially-printed backs. Although each had filing holes, they were estimated at $100+ per lot and sold for $149.50 and $138 respectively.

Lot 1672 contained a blue illustrated 1903 U.S. cover from the Empire Transportation Co., Seattle, showing the company's West Coast shipping route from Seattle to the Klondike and Alaskan gold fields. Estimated at $300+, it sold for $414. The preceding lot (1671) was a beautifully illustrated multi-coloured Woodcock on a 1904 U.S. Du Pont Smokeless Powder cover estimated at $150+. This popular subject attracted many bidders and the cover sold for $207.

Ron Leith Philatelic Auctions holds two public sales per year. For more information on future sales, telephone (604) 795-2240 or fax (604) 795-2324. Write to the company at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 5Z5.

Canadian Maritime

Hundreds of rare Canadian Maritime stamps and covers were offered by Charles G. Firby Auctions on February 20, 1999. The stunning array of selected singles and covers from New Brunswick, choice Newfoundland Pence issues on postal history, and unusual stamps and scarce items from Prince Edward Island was quite an unusual opportunity for collectors of early BNA.

Lot 168 contained an unused NB 1851 1/ Bright Red Violet Heraldic Flowers single with "just clear to good margins." Estimated at U.S. $7,500 (*Unitrade Canada Specialized Catalogue* value of $10,000), the stamp sold for $10,397.61 (U.S. $6,900. Prices converted to Canadian funds with the 15 per cent buyer's fee included. U.S. $ conversion at $1.5069). An attractive (but trifle dirty) NB[1] 1851 6d Olive Yellow Heraldic Flowers single tied on a small cover from Andover to Maine in 1855 (lot 180) was estimated at U.S. $1,200 and reached $2,079.52 (U.S. $1,380).

The "St. Clair" postal history collection of Newfoundland Pence issues was featured in 24 lots in the sale. Many rare and unique usages such as lot 220, a pair of the 1857 2d Scarlet Vermilion and 3d Green tied on an 1859 folded letter from Harbour Grace to Baltimore, were offered. This piece was estimated at U.S. $22,000. It went to a new home for $25,994.03 (U.S. $17,250). Another unique item was found in lot 227, an 1860 folded letter with an 8d Scarlet Vermilion single paying the double Cunard rate from St. John's to Baltimore. Estimated at U.S. $10,000, it realized

$10,397.61 (U.S. $6,900). Lot 239 featured an unusual 1861 6d Rose left diagonal bisect tied to a small cover dated 1863. The rate paid the 3d fee from New Pelican to St. John's. Normally a very inexpensive stamp used or unused, this is an exceptionally rare item and only one of four bisects recorded. Estimated at U.S. $7,500, it sold for $7,798.21 (U.S. $5,175).

One of the rarest items from PEI was found in lot 340, a four-margined used rouletted single of the 1861 2d Dull Claret Victoria on piece. Only five copies of this rarity are know and it was estimated at U.S. $7,500. It reached $20,795.22 (U.S. $13,800). Lot 334 contained another rarity, a mint bottom marginal block of 15 of the 1861 2d Dull Rose Victoria. It was the largest recorded multiple of PEI's first stamp. Estimated at U.S. $15,000, the block sold for $25,994.03 (U.S. $17,250). Classic Maritime material has always been popular but recent rarities are now highly sought-after.

C.G. Firby Auctions plan to have several sales of Canadian, BNA, and worldwide material through 1999 (as well as the popular philatelic literature auction in the fall). Contact the firm at 6695 Highland Rd., Suite #107, Waterford, MI 48327-1967, USA or telephone (248) 666-5333, fax (248) 666-5020. E-mail them at: Firbystamps@prodigy.net.

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd. held a worldwide auction on March 12, 1999 featuring Africa and Great Britain. Canada and BNA was represented as well. Let's examine a few of the offerings from this sale.

Lot 391 was an amazing 1842 cover with a strip of six and a single of Great Britain's 1840 2d Blue Victoria paying a late fee rate from Ipswich to West New Jersey, USA. Estimated at £4,500, the cover sold for £4,945 (Cdn. $12,524.19, price includes the 15 per cent buyer's fee). A mint block of four of the G.B. 1938 4d Grey-Green King George VI definitive with the lower horizontal pair completely imperforate (crease on the upper pair) sold for £1,322.50 (Cdn. $3,349.76) against an estimate of £750 (lot 426).

Lot 253 featured a Canadian 1851 6d Grey-Purple Albert tied on a "money letter" folded letter to Brockville, Canada West dated 1854. It sold for £253 (Cdn. $640.82) against an estimate of £300. An 1897 five-cent Deep Blue Jubilee imperf plate proof single on card (lot 263) was estimated at £40 and sold for £32.20 (Cdn. $81.56). Newfoundland was well noted with several items from the William Collie estate (part two) including many unusual items. Lot 928 was a Jeens engraved die essay of the 1865-75 Codfish in black on thin wove Indian paper and mounted on card. It had an estimate of £120 and sold for £115 (Cdn. $291.28). Two similar die proofs in issued colour of the 1928 eight-cent Hearts Content issue (lots 957 and 958) were estimated at £90 each and sold for £80.50 each (Cdn. $203.90).

Worldwide offerings included a stunning 1860 folded letter from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Spain featured in colour on the front cover of the catalogue (lot 963). It bore a bright red crowned circle "Paid/At/San/Juan Puerto Rico" marking which signified postage paid. Estimated at £1,500, the item sold for £1,265 (Cdn. $3,204.12). A large mint and used collection of Turkey, including over 80 1863 issues, "star and crescent over-prints," mint multiples and postage dues, sold for £1,495 (Cdn. $3,786.69) against an estimate of £750 (lot 985).

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions has a wonderful lineup of upcoming sales including the Hart Collection of World Postage Dues on June 12, Martin Willcocks' Worldwide Registered mail on June 25, and the John Sussex Collection of Portuguese East Africa on November 18-19. For more information contact the firm at Cavendish House, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY, U.K. Telephone (01332) 250970 or fax (01332) 294440.

Summer holidays are over

Philately slows down and takes a holiday over the summer months. Auction companies often have a break until the fall collecting season begins. Some foreign catalogues did arrive and members might be interested in these companies.

Dale Enterprises, Box 539, Emmaus, PA 18049-0539 USA, has frequent mail sales with over 2,000 lots each time. U.S. material is the primary focus of the firm's sales, but regular appearances of Canada, Commonwealth, and worldwide material (stamps rather than covers) can be found. Their website is at www.dalestamps.com.

Two Australian firms specializing in postal sales are South Yarra Stamps and Premier Philatelic Auctions. South Yarra, at G.P.O. Box 4028, Melbourne, Vic. 3001, Australia, concentrates on Germany and German States but its sales often include Australia and its Territories, Commonwealth, and worldwide stamps (and a few covers). Premier Philatelic Auctions issues an impressive catalogue of Australia, Commonwealth, and worldwide stamps and postal history. I enjoy the catalogue because it has a helpful cross-reference and country index. The firm also has a loyalty scheme which rewards bidders with credit points. Public sales are in the company's future. Write for a catalogue to Box 126, Belgrave 3160, Australia, or e-mail: ppa@premierauctions.com.au.

Lostock Collectors Auctions, 34 Rothwell Rd., Anderton, Chorley, Lancs. PR6 9LZ England sent an interesting postal auction catalogue filled with Commonwealth and worldwide material (stamps and covers). British material was also one of the strengths. Reserves and material tend to be on the lower end but the sale did have some nice and rare items. Their next auctions are scheduled for October 30, 1999 and January 8, 2000. Telephone/fax the firm at (01257) 483303. Dutch Country Auctions, 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803 USA, have public auctions throughout the year. Their sales are full of interesting U.S., Commonwealth, and worldwide stamps, covers, numismatic items, sports cards, and ephemera. These sales are often filled with larger lots and collections. The company is on the worldwide web at: www.thestampcenter.com.

Postal historians and cover collectors may be interested in Malcolm Lacey's Postal Auctions, Box 9, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5RF England. Rare and unusual worldwide covers and postal stationery are well-represented in his sales, although one can find quality items at very fair prices. The catalogues are well-illustrated and the text is organized. Telephone the firm at (01962) 856060.

Collectors interested in Scandinavian material will already know of Engers Frimerker, Viking Frimaerker, and Northland Auctions. All have interesting, well-illustrated catalogues (several pages in full colour), and offer many rare and unusual stamps and covers from the area. Some, like Engers and Northland, offer a wide variety of worldwide stamps and covers too. Contact Engers Frimerker at Klundbyvn. 103, N-2824 Redalen, Norway; Viking Frimaerker at Rasmus Nielsens Vej 60, DK-5471 Søndersø, Denmark or e-mail: viking-stamps@hobby.dk (or visit their Website: www.viking-stamps.dk); and Northland Auctions, Box 34, Verona, NJ 07044 USA or the firm's Website at: www.northstamp.com.

Good luck in finding that special item. Until next time, happy bidding.

The Birth of an International Exhibition – CAPEX

by Kenneth Rowe, RDP, FRPSC

Some years ago I was invited to speak at an American Philatelic Society Summer Seminar as an "Elder Statesman of Philately." After being assured that "elder" related to status in the hobby and not to my physical condition I quite enjoyed the experience. Consequently when Bill Robinson asked me if I would produce some anecdotes and experiences relating to the history of the RPSC over the last 50 years I realized that, like it or not, I was a senior! However, one of the advantages of seniority is that one can say controversial things with impunity.

One of the problems of anecdotal history is that if you leave someone's name out they get upset (if they're still alive that is!) and if you attempt to include everyone it gets b-o-r-i-n-g. I have therefore, only used names if they are essential to the story.

The first question that you may well ask is what does the history of the RPSC have to do with international exhibitions? The answer is quite simple, without the official sponsorship of the national society it would be impossible to hold an internationally recognized exhibition. Secondly many of the directors and officers of the national society have, of necessity, been heavily involved in the administrative structure of all Canadian international exhibitions. Thirdly an international exhibition is to national philately what the Olympic Games are to organized sport. In other words the holding of an international exhibition gives world recognition to the quality and status of national philately in the whole country.



The registered logo which has been used (with changes) for all CAPEX exhibitions.

In the 1950s philately in Canada and particularly in Toronto, was almost totally focussed on BNA with little, if any, interest in other countries or subjects. This was disturbing to those collectors like myself who came to Canada after World War II and who did not collect BNA. Although most of us joined local clubs in our areas, the lack of a broader view of philately was frustrating. This frustration came to a head in 1954 with two seminal events which were interrelated. The first was the Columbus Hall Exhibition which was a privately arranged, non competitive event open to all collectors known to the organizers.

The second, which involved many of the Columbus Hall exhibitors was the formation of a new society called the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada (PSS). By specifying that membership in PSS was limited to only two members in each specialized field the society provided (and still provides today) an outlet for many varied international interests. In 1957 in the absence of any other suitable exhibition possibilities the PSS held its first (and only) specialized exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum which consisted of 43 exhibits and an illustrated catalogue.

My association with the Canadian Philatelic Society (CPS) began in 1957 when I was nominated for membership by the then President Louis M. Lamouroux. Louis told me later that he spent his summer holidays visiting every chapter of the CPS in Canada. He was succeeded by the equally dedicated Dr. G.M. Geldert who arranged for the CPS to be granted permission to use the title "Royal" in 1959. During this period a number of younger and more active directors joined the Board including Harry Sutherland, Alan McKanna, Andrew Hinrichs and myself.

I have been a collector since I was about nine years old (with only a short break when I discovered girls!) and even during the war I always carried a small Stanley Gibbons Ace album with me (it made by backpack look neat and square on parade!). My first experience of an international exhibition was at London in 1950 when with an excess of energy and enthusiasm I served as a steward (errand boy!) for the whole period of the exhibition. This experience opened up a whole new world for me. I met many famous philatelists including Sir John Wilson,

C.H.C. Harmer, R. King-Farlow and Robson Lowe. Therese Reiter the Secretary was later invited to fill the same position at CAPEX '51 – the Canadian Association for Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc. (membership was $10). Unfortunately no meetings of members were ever held and the opportunities to organize another international exhibition on suitable dates in 1961, 1967 and 1971 were missed.

With the unfortunate deaths of Dr. G.M. Geldert and Louis Lamouroux in 1967 Harry Sutherland became President and I acted as Vice-President and Editor of CP.

At this time the Board of Directors decided that the position of Canada in the philatelic world would be enhanced by membership in the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP). Planning therefore, began for an international philatelic exhibition under FIP rules to be held at sometime in the 1970s. At the 43rd Annual Convention of the RPSC at the Seigniory Club in Montebello, Quebec during 1971, a meeting was held with representatives of the RPSC and Canada Post to discuss a proposed organization and to select an appropriate date for planning purposes. Due to conflicts with already scheduled FIP exhibitions the centenary of Canada's entry into the UPU during 1978 was chosen as the most suitable.

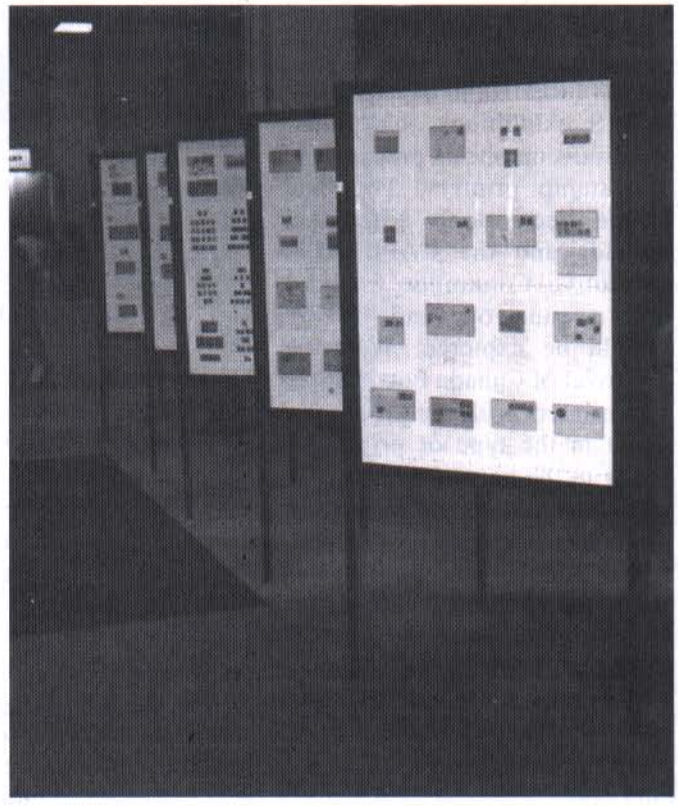
Following this discussion and in view of the inactivity of the remaining members of the original CAPEX Executive Committee I approached Jim Sissons, who was acting as secretary, with the request that they dissolve their organization to allow for the formation of a new association which would take over responsibility for future Canadian international exhibitions. This was agreed and their remaining funds were divided equally between the RPSC and BNAPS. The RPSC share was allocated to the new association as seed money.

The Toronto Association for Philatelic Exhibitions (TAPE) was incorporated in 1971 and Vincent G. Greene was invited to be President. The same role that he had held in 1951. He reluctantly agreed providing that "you young fellows do all the work." With Harry Sutherland and myself the new Executive Committee also included Alan McKanna, Andy Hinrichs, Bill Slate, Michael Madesker and Gus Snels.

It was decided to retain the CAPEX name and one of Vinnie Greene's relatives provided the idea for the logo which was finished artistically by Alec Wright of The Hospital for Sick Children and registered as our trademark.

Prior to this several members of the committee visited (at their own expense) the international exhibitions in London in 1960 and 1970, Washington in1966 and Philadelphia in 1976 to observe methods and facilities. Perhaps the most important of these observations were those relating to the design of exhibit frames. The frames for CAPEX '51 were constructed of wood with a plate glass covering. While this was "state-of-the-art" in 1951 it was not acceptable 20 years later. As there were no commercial products available it was necessary to design and arrange for the manufacture of our own frames.

Meanwhile, to fill the need for an annual national level exhibition in the Toronto area, two members of the TAPE Executive (Gus Snels and Mike Madesker) established a privately organized show called "STAMPEX" which had its first exhibition in 1972 and was host to the 45th Convention of the RPSC in 1973. For the use of STAMPEX and as a model for CAPEX a new, secure and reusable frame design was developed by Gus Snels and over the next few years was further refined to produce the type that was used at CAPEX '78, CANADA '82, CAPEX '87, CANADA '92 and finally CAPEX '96.



The zig-zag frame units ensure security and stability and eliminate light reflection.

After reviewing the available exhibition space in Toronto the Executive decided that, although not ideal, the Automotive Building in the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) was the only feasible location and a special floor plan was developed by Gus Snels and Mike Madesker to maximize the limited space available. Bill Slate coordinated the placing of dealers' booths and national post offices on the upper level.

In parallel with these activities continuing work on the development of financial estimates was carried out by Alan McKanna. The initial seed money provided by the RPSC from CAPEX '51 was soon exhausted. To provide

working capital the Executive established a Guarantee Fund and more than 130 organizations and individuals pledged a total of $140,000 (RPSC guarantee $25,000). Each guarantor provided 25 per cent of the guarantee immediately with a commitment to provide the balance in case of a financial shortfall. With the success of the exhibition all guarantors got their money back.

Also successful (and essential in the CNE at that time) was the establishment of the Royal Beaver Club which provided entry to a special restaurant and lounge and also limited edition philatelic souvenirs. The first memberships were sold at INTERPHIL in Philadelphia in 1976. Membership fees eventually raised the sum of $38,000 to support CAPEX '78.

INTERPHIL, like many earlier U.S. exhibitions, sold philatelic souvenir sheets prepared by the stamp printers. This had never been done before in Canada and the CAPEX '78 Executive Committee felt that this avenue of fund raising should be explored. With the approval of Canada Post, I approached each of the security printers with the proposal each produce a souvenir sheet in the type of printing methods that they were using in the normal course of business and using original dies, stamps or proofs. The Canadian Banknote Company prepared its sheet using an intaglio die and stamp, the British American Banknote Company's sheet demonstrated the combination of intaglio and lithographic methods and Ashton Potter Ltd. prepared a progressive colour proof of a stamp by the offset colour lithography process. 10,000 sets were prepared and serially numbered. Each Beaver Club member received a set and the balance were sold at the exhibition raising $84,000.

These additional income sources were of great importance to the financial success of the exhibition but at this point it must be said that without the participation and support of Canada Post none of our exhibitions would have been possible. The miniature sheet of stamps produced for CAPEX '78 was a first for Canada and was one of the factors that encouraged attendance. The U.S. post office also produced a very attractive miniature sheet. The first day sales and the lineups for both of these sheets were unbelievable! As closing hour approached people had to be turned away so that the line-ups would be ended by closing time. At one point the U.S. post office came to us for garbage bags to pack the money in for transport to Buffalo by armoured car!

As with any event of this size there were some unplanned for things that occurred, some of which were humorous, like the fact that the custodian of the one-cent British Guiana could not unlock the briefcase chained to his wrist and a locksmith had to be called. Some were examples of Murphy's Law! We had planned for the show to open on the evening of June 9th with the traditional opening reception held actually in the exhibition hall and for the public opening to be in the morning of June 10th. Our publicity covered this schedule, but many people without tickets showed up on the 9th. We never did that again!



The National Class at CAPEX '87.

All the same when I drove into the parking lot at the CNE on public opening day and I saw the lineup stretching more than halfway around the building it was apparent that the work of many dedicated volunteers (only a few named here) had been rewarded.

The Future

"Don't let the future scare you, it's just as shaky as you are."

Arnold Glasgow

In spite of these comforting words there are trends appearing which will affect the future of international exhibitions in Canada. The next exhibition in London in 2000 is being run entirely by the British Post Office with the national philatelic federation in an "advisory" role. The U.S. post office is taking a similar approach to forthcoming exhibitions. This trend away from philately and towards marketing is bound to have serious consequences on philately in the future. As an indication, a lack of interest by Canada Post has already forced the cancellation of the plans for the next international youth exhibition in 2001 or 2002. CAPEX '06 or '07? Who knows!

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The Fruit Trees and Edible Berries Definitive Series Has Sufficient Varieties to Make it an Interesting Study

by Joseph Monteiro

The Fruit Trees and Edible Berries definitive series was issued in 1991. One of the columnist for a popular stamp newspaper noted that the designs of fruits on these stamps are so colourful and appealing that they make them good enough to eat. The designs in their vibrant colours undoubtedly make the stamps exceptionally attractive. Recently, a number of the major errors and varieties were reported which make it an interesting series.

This article briefly reviews the following: a) The general theme and description of each stamp in the series; b) The basic dimensions of the stamps; c) Major errors; d) Other significant errors; and e) Other varieties.

The general theme and description of each stamp of the series [7]

The low value definitive postage stamps feature edible Canadian berries. Berries are depicted on each stamp against a typical landscape in which they grow. Seven definitive low value berries were issued. The medium value stamps feature fruit trees. Twelve medium value stamps depicting fruit trees have so far been issued. The lower value denominations were designed by Dennis Noble with Typography by Tania Craan. The higher value stamps were designed by Clermont Malenfant with photo illustration by Richard Robataille and Denis Major.

Low value definitives: The 1c stamp depicts the blueberry, also known as blaeberries. This berry thrives in Eastern Canada and is generally distinguishable by their clusters. The 2c portrays the wild strawberry. There are three known species of wild strawberries: the woodland, the filed or 'Virginia' and the seaside or 'Pacific'. On the 3c stamp, the black crowberry is pictured. It is the most important fruit of the Arctic. Rose hips are depicted on the 5c stamp. These rose hips are one of the richest fruits in vitamins and contain 25 times the vitamin C of an orange. The 6c stamps depicts the black raspberries which are used in cooking and for preservatives. The 10c pictures the kinnikinnick which is very high in carbohydrates, it is considered a survival food in the North. The Saskatoon berry is portrayed on the 25c. As many as 15 different species of this berry have been found and it is ideal for jams, jellies, pies, muffins or pancakes.

Medium value definitives: The 48c stamp depicts the McIntosh apple, it was discovered in 1811 by accident on John McIntosh's homestead in Dundela, Ontario. This apple has been called the "apple of apples". The 49c shows the Delicious apple, it was discovered in Iowa in 1872 and named after the state's nickname, "Hawkeye". The 50c stamp depicting the "Snow Apple" or "Fameuse" derives its name from its snow-while pulp. This apple is grown mainly in Québec. The Gravenstein apple is shown on the 52c stamp, it is one of the 10 most important apple cultivars in Canada. The Annapolis valley in Nova Scotia is a major producer of this apple variety. The 65c stamp portrays the Black walnut, this is one of the two walnut trees found in Eastern Canada. The 67c stamp shows the Beaked hazelnut, this nut is enclosed in a greenish sheath. The 69c stamp portraying the Shagbark Hickory derives its name from its bark. The American chestnut is shown on the 71c stamp and was once indigenous to eastern North America. A foreign fungus disease called Chestnut blight killed all but a small percentage of the trees in the 20th century. The 84c stamp pictures the Stanley plum, it is a European variety that was introduced in 1926 from New York Agriculture Experiment Station. The 86c stamp portrays the Bartlett pear which was discovered in England and brought to Massachusetts around 1800. Enoch Bartlett gave the pear his own name. The 88c stamp which pictures the Westcot Apricot resembles a small peach. This fruit is grown mostly in the Okanagan valley of British Columbia. The Elberta peach is depicted on the 90c stamp and was named in the honour of Clara Elberta, the wife of Mr. Rumph in Marshallville, Georgia on whose farm this species evolved.

The basic dimensions of the stamps

The Fruit Trees and Edible Berries definitives which have been issued to date, consists of 19 values so far. The low value stamps were issued on August 5, 1992, the medium value 48c, 65c, and 84c stamps were issued on December 27, 1991, the 49c, 67c, and 86c stamps were issued on December 30, 1992 and the 52c, 71c and 90c stamps were issued on July 31, 1995. When these 19 stamps are further classified, there are as 30 or more varieties. Given the stamps issued, two basic dimension of classification are needed to sort the stamps in this series: 1) Paper; and 2) Perforation. The first dimension is needed to separate stamps printed on different papers with the same perforation. The second dimension is required to separate the stamps printed in sheets or booklets on the same type of paper with different perforations. A third dimension is required to classify one stamp (i.e., the 88c which appeared with four tags and later with three tags).

Sheet Stamps: The low value stamps are printed in sheets of 100. A unique feature of the sheets is that it has a continuous image across the stamp pane as the sides of the adjacent stamp designs connect to form a continuous landscape of wild berries. The top and bottom margins have different colours. The medium value stamps are printed in sheets of 50.

When the stamps are classified by paper and perforation there are at least one variety of the 1c, 65c and 67c; two varieties of the 2c to 25c, 48c, 69c, and 84c; three varieties of the 71c, stamp; and four varieties or more if one includes the

straight edge variety; 49c, 50c, 52c, 86c, 88c and 90c stamps (see Table 1).

The initial printing of the Fruit Trees and Edible Berries was by Ashton-Potter Limited using typography or lithography. The low value definitives are untagged and have a perforation of 13.1 by 13.7. The high value definitives are tagged on all four sides or were printed with a three bar tag and have a perforation of 13.1 by 13.1 or/and 14.4 by 13.8. PVA gum is used on all these stamps.

With the demise of the Canadian operations of Ashton-Potter Limited, these definitive stamps were printed by Canadian Bank Note Company. Coated paper was used by the former and Harrison and Coated paper was used by the latter for the lower values. The medium values were printed on Coated, Harrison or Peterborough paper. The medium value stamps printed by the two printers can be distinguished by the different types of paper and/or perforation. In 1995, the American operations of Ashton-Potter won the contract to print the definitives and reprints of the definitives appeared by Ashton-Potter Canada Ltd. It is impossible to distinguish the two printings of Ashton-Potter for the lower values other than by the inscription in the plate, one has ASHTON POTTER LIMITED and the other has ASHTON-POTTER CANADA LTD. However, from the philatelic perspective, there is no difference as both are printed on the same paper, have the same perforation, gum and colour shades, in other words the dimensions of classification are the same.

Booklet Stamps: The Fruit Tree stamps were printed in booklet format in panes of six i.e. with five stamps and a message. The message reads THE STAMPS OF CANADA - WORTH COLLECTING. LES TIMBRES DU CANADA - UNE VALEUR SÛRE. The Fruit Tree stamps that appear in booklets are the 48c, 49c, 50c, 52c, 84c, 86c, 88c and 90c stamps.

The booklet stamps were printed using lithography and are tagged on all four sides or appear with three tags. All the booklet stamps printed by Ashton-Potter Limited (i.e. 48c, 49c, 50c, 52c, 84c, 86c, 88c and 90c) were perforated 14.6 by 13.8 (exceptions i.e., 13.1 by 13.1 were noted on the 52c and the 90c in *Darnell Catalogue* but were not verified) and were printed on coated paper. The stamps were perforated from bottom to top using a one row T-comb perforator.

After the demise of the Canadian operations of Ashton-Potter Limited, Canadian Bank Note Company printed the 49c, 50c, 52c, 86c, 88c and 90c booklets on Harrison paper or Peterborough paper. The perforation of the stamps printed by Canadian Bank Note Company is 13.1 by 13.1. It is worthwhile noting that the perforations on the stamps printed by the two printers are different. In addition, the designs on the front of the booklet covers by the two printers are also different. There is a minor difference between the back of the 50c and 88c booklets compared with the earlier two. The rectangle containing the logo XPRESSPOST is now a square rather than an oblong. In addition, beneath the square is inscribed the message FULL POSTAL SERVICE AVAILABLE AT:

Table 1 - Fruit Trees and Edible Berries

Stamp	Coated paper Perf 13.1 x 13.6 AP	Harrison paper Perf 13.1 x 13.6 CBN	Coated paper Perf 13.1 x 13.6 CBN	Coated paper Perf 13.1 x 13.6 APC	Coated paper Perf 13.1 by 13.1 AP	Coated Paper Perf 14.4 x 13.8 AP or APC	Harrison paper Perf 13.1 x 13.1 CBN	Peterborough paper Perf 13.1 x 13.1 CBN
1c Blueberry	PTL		PTL	PTL				
2c Strawberry	PTL	PTL	PTL	PTL				
3c Black Crowberry	PTL	PTL	PTL	PTL				
5c Rose Hips	PTL	PTL	PTL	PTL				
6c Black Raspberries	PTL	PTL	PTL					
10c Kinnikinnick	PTL	PTL	PTL	PTL				
25c Saskatoon Berry	PTL	PTL	PTL	PTL				
48c McIntosh Apple					PTL	Bk5		
49c Delicious Apple					PTL	Bk5	PTL Bk5	
50c Snow Apple					PTL	Bk5	PTL Bk5	
52c Gravenstein Apple					PTL Bk5**	PTL Bk5		PTL Bk5
65c Black Walnut					PTL			
67c Beaked Hazelnut					PTL			
69c Shagbark Hickory					PTL		PTL	
71c American Chestnut					PTL	PTL		PTL
84c Stanley Plum					PTL	Bk5		
86c Bartlett Pear					PTL	Bk5	PTL Bk5	
88c Westcot Apricot					PTL	PTL# Bk5		PTL* Bk5*
90c Elberta Peach					PTL Bk**	PTL Bk5		PTL Bk5

PTL = Marginal inscription with traffic lights. Perf = Perforation. AP = Ashton-Potter Limited. APC = Ashton-Potter Canada Ltd. CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company. * = These appear with both four bar tags and three bar tags. # = Listed in Scott's as 1373b. ** - Listed in Darnell. I have been unable to verify the existence of varieties listed as # or **.

and SERVICE POSTAL:. The address at the bottom is also different.

The formats of the various booklets are shown hereafter.

Major Errors

So far a few significant errors have been reported in this series. The first error that was found was a part imperforate error. At a BNAPEX '94 meeting John Jamieson told the story of the 10-cents Kinnikinnick berry discovery. Each pane contained 10 partially imperforate singles, or five partially imperforate horizontal pairs, from the bottom row of stamps. Five panes were found in Vancouver, as a result, 25 partially imperforate pairs are known to exist. Given the printing format more than five panes are expected to exist. It appears that the perforator skipped the last two strikes at the bottom of the sheet. This error resulted from the stamps printed by Ashton-Potter given the design of the missing perforations on the sheet, namely – T's.

The second error noted were fully imperforate errors, such as: the one-cent Blueberry, the two cents Wild strawberry, the three cents Black crowberry, the five cents Rose hips, the six cents Black raspberry, the 10 cents Kinnikinnick berry, the 25 cents Saskatoon berry, the 48 cents, 65 cents and 84 cents. The lower values were recently reported by Eastern Auctions Ltd. (see mail auction catalogue of August 31, 1998 and Offerings for Selected Clients #130, August, 1999). The third error noted were fully imperforate errors with the inscription on the right missing. The stamps that have so far been reported with this type of error were the five cents, six cents, the 10 cents and 25 cents.

Besides the fully imperforate errors noted above, abnormal imperforates were offered for sale at the June 13 and 14, 1998 auction held by Charles G. Firby in Michigan. The unusual thing about these imperforates is that they carry the denomination of other stamps. In other words, these stamps were never official issued. The two imperforates that were offered for sale were the 49-cents Delicious Apple stamps that bear the red '86' and CANADA inscription of the 86 cents Bartlet Pear stamp; and the 86 cents Bartlet Pear stamps that bear the yellow '49' and CANADA inscription of the Delicious Apple stamp. In other words, these stamps contain two major errors: first they are imperforate; and second they carry the value of another stamp.

The cause of these errors is because the value plates and design plates of the genuine stamps were interchanged. Charles Firby in an interview with *Canadian Stamp News* indicated that "These aren't home made,"..."There's absolutely no question – they are real stamps,"..."they have full gum and tagging." [4] These stamps are believed to have come from the Ashton-Potter printing, before the company went bankrupt. Some philatelists believe that these are counterfeits, others suggest that they are essays. Regardless, it should be noted that these imperforates were never sold over the postal counter and somehow they surreptitiously were removed from the premises via the back door.

It should also be noted that Canadian stamp designs are a form of intellectual property, as they are registered under the Copyright laws and even if they were not fraud, designed to deprive the government of their revenue, it is still a violation of the Copyright law if produced for unofficial purposes. These are shown in the illustration hereafter.

* See Eastern Auction Ltd., Mail Auction, November 10th 1998, Halifax, Nova Scotia, p.9. The catalogue described these errors under lot 769. It stated "You may have noticed the recent discovery of imperf errors on the fruit definitive issues, this group consists of vertical imperfs of #1352, 1353, 1354, 1355. These imperfs are missing the value part, and I suspect that they come from gutters between the sheets or some other mysterious aspect of the error, great

Table 2 – Major errors in the Fruit tree series

Stamp	Type of Error	Other Details
1-cent Blueberry	Fully Imperforate	
2-cent Strawberry	Fully Imperforate	
3-cent Black Crowberry	Fully Imperforate	
5-cent Rose Hips	Fully Imperforate	
5-cent Rose Hips	Fully Imperforate	Missing Value
6-cent BlackRraspberries	Fully Imperforate	
6-cent Black Raspberries	Fully Imperforate	Missing Value
10-cent Kinnikinnick	Partially Imperforate	Perforation missing – three sides – bottom and sides
10-cent Kinnikinnick	Fully Imperforate	
10-cent Kinnikinnick	Fully Imperforate	Missing Value
25-cent Saskatoon Berry	Fully Imperforate	
25-cent Saskatoon Berry	Fully Imperforate	Missing Value
48-cent McIntosh Apple	Fully Imperforate	
49-cent Delicious Apple	Fully Imperforate	Incorrect Value
65-cent Black Walnut	Fully Imperforate	
84-cent Stanley Plum	Fully Imperforate	
86-cent Bartlett Pear	Fully Imperforate	Incorrect Value

collateral items,a nd a piece of the puzzle in how these errors were created...(P) E 300.00." It is worthwhile noting that the #1354 was repeated twice, probably this was a typing error and should have been 1355. Since these stamps were never sold over the philatelic counters they most probably were taken surreptitiously from the premises of the security printers or were found in the material discarded from the premises to be shredded. Given the extremely low price that these four vertical pairs were estimated at, caution should be exercised in the purchase of these errors. If the errors were genuine printing errors, the estimated price would have been several times that quoted. It is worthwhile noting that these stamps contain two major errors: 1) missing value; 2) missing perforation. It also raises interesting questions as to why these errors arose. One reason is that they could have been essays, initially submitted to the Post Office for a determination of the value that the stamp should carry. Other equally plausible reasons could also be advanced but until the Post Office makes an official statement, the true reason will never be known with certainty.

Other significant errors

The other significant errors that have been brought to the attention of philatelists in this series are tagging errors and misperforated errors. The two errors are often found together.

Tagging Varieties: Tagging errors have appeared on several fruit tree stamps. Most of these tagging errors have been caused because the stamps were misperforated. These are shown in the table hereafter.

Since, these tagging errors were caused because they were misperforated they will be examined below in greater detail.

Misperforated Varieties: Misperforated stamps can result because of a number of reasons. In the absence of conclusive evidence, it is generally impossible to determine with precision the exact cause of the misperforation. While these stamps have not gained much popularity among philatelists they serve as important sources of information. In addition, they make striking collectible items and generally cannot be easily faked. The three well known misperforated errors that have appeared in this series are the 50 cents Snow Apple stamp, the 71 cents American Chestnut stamp and the 88 cents Westcot Apricot stamp.

The 50 cents Snow Apple misperf appeared in a December 1995 auction catalogue by Eastern Auctions Ltd. and has been described as:

"742 *B #1363 Var., 50c Snow Apple, matched set corner blocks of four with dramatic shift in perforation, also results in three bar tag variety, VF NH...(PH)...E...500.00+."[11]

The misperf is both vertical and horizontal, but will be primarily noted for the former, because of its effect on the design. The vertical column of perforations is shifted to the right, and the horizontal rows of perforations are shifted downward. The vertical shift is five mm, and the horizontal shift is 2.5 mm on the bottom lower right block. However, there is some variation given that the perforations indicate a minor slope in relation to the sides of the pane. As a result of the misperforation, the vertical perforations pass between the '5' and '0' of the value of the stamp '50'. This has an unusual effect, in that the stamp appears with the value '0'. The horizontal perforations barely touch the name of the country CANADA shown at the top of the stamp. However, the effect on the right side of the pane is not that dramatic. The misperforated stamps have a two or three bar tagging error. This suggests that the misperf is a perforating error, rather than a print shift error.

The American Chestnut 71 cents stamp was described in catalogue #188 of Saskatoon Stamp Centre under lot 278 as: "1369? var1 *T 71 Chestnut PERF SHIFT with horizontal perfs shifted DOWN 2.5 mm cutting across "71 Canada" & resulting in 3-BAR TAG ERROR (Rose G2cT). Only 37 sound copies reported. MNH. Rose Unlisted (colour photo – centre)...C$47.50 = US $35.39."

This misperf is a horizontal misperf. The horizontal perforations are shifted down, by four mm, cutting the value of the stamp '71' and CANADA at the top. Traces of the cut-off design at the top are seen at the bottom of the stamp. The horizontal perforations do not indicate any slope. The shift creates a large white border at the bottom of the stamp, in addition the value on the stamp cannot be determined due to the misperf, if one did not know it in advance. Perhaps, the more significant aspect of this misperf is that it creates a three bar tag error, however this is visible under the UV lamp.

The Westcot Apricot 88 cents misperforated stamp was described in catalogue #201 of Saskatoon Stamp Centre as:

"1373 var *T 88c Westcot Apricot minor PERFORATION SHIFT resulting in a 3-BAR TAGGING ERROR (G2aR) on LR corner block of 4. MNH Rose $300 C $249.50 = US $179.64."

Table 3 – Tagging errors in the Fruit tree series

Stamp	Type of Tagging Error	Printer
48-cent McIntosh Apple	Only one vertical tagging appears (in the middle) i.e., G2dv	Ashton-Potter Limited
50-cent Snow Apple	Only one horizontal tagging appears (in the middle) i.e., G2dH	Canadian Bank Note Co.
50-cent Snow Apple	Only one vertical tagging appears (in the middle) and no horizontal tagging exists from the middle i.e., G2cL	Canadian Bank Note Co.
50-cent Snow Apple	Tagging is missing on the top and on the left i.e., G2bBR	Canadian Bank Note Co.
71-cent American Chestnut	Only one horizontal tagging appears (in the middle) and no vertical tagging exists from the middle i.e., G2cT	Canadian Bank Note Co.
G2cT 88c Westcot Apricot	Vertical tagging is missing on the left i.e., G2aR	Canadian Bank Note Co.

The misperf is both horizontal and vertical. The perforations are shifted to the right and to the top. The minor shifts create missing tag on the left. Further, the perforations do not cut the design of the stamp nor do they appear to have a noticeable slope. The three misperfs are shown below.

Other Varieties

The other varieties in the Fruit Trees and Edible Berries series can be grouped into: Marginal Inscriptions; Misperforated varieties; and Quirks.

Marginal Inscriptions: The sheets with denominations 1c to 25c, of the initial printing by Ashton-Potter Limited, have the marginal inscription:

Ashton-Potter Limited C O O O O O

Art/Motif: Dennis Noble

Typography/Typographie: Tania Craan

The marginal inscription appears on the top and bottom of the sheets in the right and left corners. the above inscription shown is used on the upper right and lower right corners. The justification position of the inscription for the other two corners is different. (See the description in the following paragraphs). The later printing notes the change in the name of the company as "Ashton-Potter Canada Ltd.", in addition, the 'C' indicating the type of paper is more rounded, further the printing of the inscription is smaller. The marginal inscriptions of the lower values printed by Canadian Bank Note are similar to those of Ashton-Potter Limited except that it has the appropriate name and an 'H' for Harrison paper in its first printing and a 'C' for Coated paper in its second printing. The 'C' of Canadian Bank Note is more rounded than the 'C' of Ashton-Potter Limited in the first printing.

The sheets with higher denominations, printed by Ashton-Potter Limited, have the marginal inscription shown below. Note that the printers name now appears capitalized.

C O O O O O ASHTON-POTTER LIMITED

Design: Clermont Malenfant

Photo-illustration: Richard Robitaille, Denis Major

The above inscription is shown for the lower left and upper right corner blocks. For the other two position blocks, the inscription is justified to the other side and the traffic lights appear on the other side. To illustrate this clearly, this will be shown in the illustration below.

The higher denomination stamps, printed by Canadian Bank Note, have the marginal inscription:

Canadian Bank Note O O O O O H

Design: Clermont Malenfant

Photo-illustration: Richard Robitaille, Denis Major

Quirks: So far not many quirks have appeared in the Fruit Trees and Edible Berries series. The major well known varieties that have been reported in philatelic magazines are listed below:

1c Blueberry

1. A accent appears over the A of CANADA as Á. [15]

2. A fine dot also appears above the first "e" of blueberry, on the second stamp in the second row or the second stamp in the second column.

10c Kinnikinnick

1. A reddish or orange dot appears in the berry, this appears in stamp whose position is 22 in the sheet. [16]

In addition, a cracked plate variety appears on most lower values. This was pointed out to me by a philatelic colleague. Other articles have also pointed to various non-constant varieties such as bugs on the fruit.

Conclusion

1) Very little literature has appeared on the series so far. As a result, there does not appear to be any disagreement on the different varieties that exist.

2) It is virtually impossible to tell the difference between the earlier and later printings by A-P without reference to the marginal inscriptions. It should therefore not be treated as a different variety.

3) A number of major errors have so far been found. Some of these are the standard type of errors i.e., fully imperforate / partial imperforate error. Others are more unusual i.e., without the value or with the wrong value on the stamps. It is not known how these unusual errors entered the market. It is doubtful whether they were sold over any regular postal stamp outlet.

Author's Note: This article is based largely on a chapter in my book The Definitive Postage Stamps of Canada *(1953-1999) Volume III.*

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15. *Philatelié Québec*, No. 179-181, August-October, 1993.

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Submarine Arctic Operations

Editor's Note: The following article was scheduled for printined in Opusculum II. Since Opusculum II will not be printed, this article appears here with the author and thePhilatelic Research Foundation's approval.

by Robert D. Rawlins

Introduction

The polar cap, covered with five million square miles of ice up to 35 feet thick, is a forbidding region, often with howling blizzards and surface temperatures to 60°F below zero. Depth of the sea averages 2,000 fathoms with water temperatures from 20 to 30 degrees. Until fairly recently, little was known of this region and it is only in the past two or three decades that submarine exploration has provided a vastly increased store of Arctic knowledge.

The first Arctic explorer, probably a Greek named Pytheas, reportedly sailed to an island six days journey north of Scotland in 340 BC. Two millennia later, men searched for passage north of North America in order to reach the riches of the East. By the 19th century, reaching the North Pole became a serious objective for Arctic explorers. The bones of many explorers litter the Arctic wastes following failed attempts to reach the North Pole. It was not until April 6, 1909, that Commander Robert E. Peary, journeying overland with five companions, was able to reach the North Pole; however, his claim is still challenged today. On May 9, 1926 Lieutenant Commander Richard E. Byrd was first to fly over the North Pole. In 1931, explorers Sir Hubert Wilkins and Lincoln Ellsworth attempted to reach the Pole in an ex-Navy World War I submarine named *Nautilus*. The expedition failed, but sowed the seeds for future polar explorations by submarine.

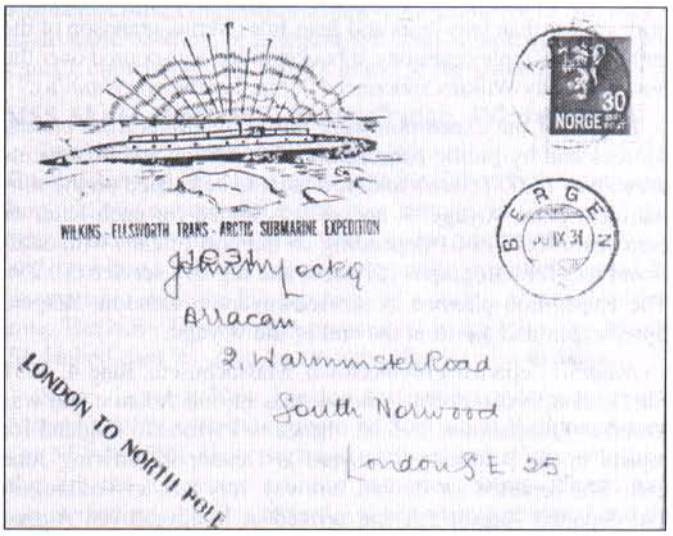
Commencing in 1946, U.S. Navy diesel-electric submarines sailed north to the edges of the ice pack, but the vastness of the cap and limitations of the submarines permitted only brief, short-distance forays under ice.

The propulsive power to conquer a sea route to the North Pole was born with USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), world's first nuclear powered submarine. In August, 1958, she made history by transiting from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean via the North Pole. Since then, submarines of the United States have more or less routinely visited the North Pole during Arctic operations primarily conducted for exploratory or scientific purposes. British submarines have occasionally operated with U.S. subs in polar operations and submarines of the former USSR reportedly visited the North Pole on July 17, 1962, but, because of Soviet secrecy, little is known of this or subsequent operations.

This paper provides a philatelic history of the first North Pole expedition by submarine *Nautilus* in 1931, and the first 25 years, beginning in 1958, of pioneering Arctic operations, conducted for scientific or exploratory purposes, by U.S. and British nuclear powered submarines.

Modern polar cruise mail is, by and large, philatelic. Submarine crews are small, ranging from about 100 for early ships to perhaps 130 for later ones. Many submarines depart for the Arctic from their home port and return directly following the operation, so little in the way of crew mail exists for the majority of polar operations. Then too, most polar operations are classified with details only released after the ships' return to port. Were it not for philatelic mail created by interested commands, many operations would have gone undocumented. This paper illustrates some of the key covers as well as variations in postmarks and ship applied markings associated with this type of mail.

The U.S. Navy discontinued post offices aboard submarines in 1946; nonetheless, the U.S. Postal Service has approved requests from polar bound submarines for a one day post office and supplied hand cancellation devices until 1975. Some submarines availed themselves of this service; others fashioned their own postmarks for mail canceled at the North Pole and the remainder made no attempt to postmark cruise mail. Whether postmarked on board or not, submarine polar cruise mail normally entered the mail stream either at the first port of call following the operation or upon



European size cover with London to North Pole straight line stamp, canceled at Bergen Sep 30, 1931. Other than the Spitsbergen to North Pole leg covers (two reported), these are the scarcest leg covers.

return to home port. In addition to ship sponsored cruise covers, documentation of a polar exercise or operation may include:

- personal/collector mail serviced during a port visit or upon return to home port;
- covers serviced by scientific personnel following the operation;
- mail generated during operations with other vessels or visits to scientific ice stations;
- welcome home covers created by collectors.

Wilkins-Ellsworth Trans-Arctic Submarine Expedition, 1931

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the United States began scrapping or retiring many of its submarines placed in service during or shortly after World War I. USS O-12 was stricken from the Navy Record on June 9, 1930, turned over to the U.S. Shipping Board who, in turn, chartered her to the firm of Lake & Danenhower for $1 for five years. The charter was granted

with the provision that the ship be used only for scientific research and be eventually scrapped in accordance with the London Naval Treaty of 1930. Lake & Danenhower, sub-chartered O-12 to the Trans-Arctic Submarine Expedition, Inc., headed by Captain Sir Hubert Wilkins, for a voyage across the top of the world from Spitsbergen to the Bering Straits via the North Pole.

The ship was modified extensively for operations under the ice cap at the Mathis Shipyard in Gloucester City, New Jersey. Simon Lake, whose Lake Torpedo Boat Company had constructed O-12 agreed to convert the old boat into a polar submarine. Considering what was actually known of the polar ice cap, the modifications were ingenious, and some approximate features incorporated into modern nuclear powered submarines. The completed *Nautilus* had a sled deck for sliding underneath the ice, a reinforced bow (modern subs have a reinforced sail), telescoping ice borer to provide ventilation and air for the engines (forerunner of the modern snorkel), jackknife periscope (modern scopes telescope), sonic depth finder, underwater lights and camera and special gyro compass, to mention only the most significant.

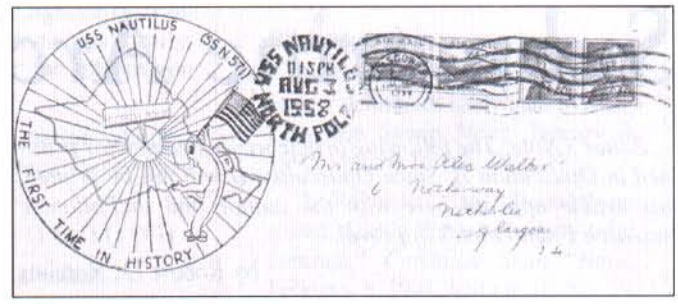
After modification and sea trial testing, O-12 was rechristened on March 24, 1931 by cosponsors Lady Wilkins, Sir Hubert's bride of less than two years and Jean Jules Verne, grandson of the author. In a simple ceremony, a bucket of ice was poured over the bow and Lady Wilkins announced "Ship, I name you *Nautilus*."

Funds for the expedition were raised by grants from private sources and by public subscription. Expedition advertisements drew over 15,000 covers and postcards to be carried on the submarine's polar voyage. A charge was levied for each letter or card sent ($0.75 or $1 depending on the port of call) with additional fees for autographs ($1 each) and registry service ($0.25). The Expedition planned to service covers at London, Bergen, Spitsbergen and a port at the end of the voyage.

Nautilus departed Provincetown, Massachusetts June 4, 1931 for London, broke down in heavy seas in mid-Atlantic and was towed to Queenstown, Ireland, thence to Plymouth, England for repairs in the Admiralty dockyard at Devonport, arriving June 26th. She departed for Bergen, Norway, July 8th, arrived August 1st, departed August 5th and arrived at Longyearbyen August 15th, departing two days later for the North Pole. The ship encountered pack ice three days out of Spitsbergen, but pushed on, surfaced, for 10 more days to a point 450 miles from the North Pole. On September 1st, her hull battered, her ice borer stuck in a raised position and stern planes lost, she returned to Bergen arriving September 21st, where her crew was paid off. She was scuttled in Bergen fjord, November 20th. Her remains were located in June 1996 by the U.S. nuclear powered research submarine, NR-1.

Leg covers were issued during the voyage with the Expedition rubber stamp cachet and a straight line marking: "New York to London" mailed July 6, 1931 at London; "New York to Bergen" mailed August 4, 1931 at Bergen; and "Bergen to Spitsbergen" and "New York to Spitsbergen" mailed at Longyearbyen August 17, 18 or 24, 1931. End of voyage covers stamped "New York to North Pole" and a group of covers with straight line "Bergen to North Pole" were mailed in London between October 1 and 19th. Two final groups, "London to North Pole" and "Spitsbergen to North Pole" (two reported) were hand canceled at Bergen on September 30, 1931.

Although Sir Hubert did not reach his ultimate goal, his valiant effort laid the groundwork for his dream to be realized 27 years later.



***Nautilus* cover with crew designed rubber stamp cachet and crew produced fancy cancel for first transpolar voyage. Although nearly 1,600 covers were serviced, they remain difficult to find; many were kept as souvenirs by recipients and those which reach the philatelic market are eagerly sought after by ship, polar and thematic collectors.**

USS Nautilus (SSN-571) Pacific-Atlantic North Pole Operation, 1958

USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), world's first nuclear powered submarine, was commissioned September 30, 1954. In 1957, while proceeding to a NATO exercise in the North Atlantic, she attempted a run to the North Pole. At 180 miles from the pole the attempt was aborted after all gyrocompasses failed due to a blown fuse. During the fall and winter of 1958, however, secret preparations were made for a second polar attempt, this time from the Pacific side.

In April 1958, *Nautilus* set course for the Pacific Ocean via the Panama Canal. After a trip up the West Coast, she departed Seattle on June 9th for the Arctic Ocean, but was unable to find water sufficiently deep to slip under the ice pack and returned to Pearl Harbor to wait for conditions to improve. Departing Pearl Harbor on July 22nd, *Nautilus* found a deep water gateway on August 1st north of Point Barrow and reached the North Pole at 2315 EDST, August 3rd. She surfaced August 5th in the Greenland Sea after 96 hours and 1830 miles submerged under ice. The ship's captain, Commander William Anderson, left the ship by helicopter off Iceland and was flown to Washington, DC where President Eisenhower presented him with a Legion of Merit and awarded the ship and crew a Presidential Unit Citation for this feat. Commander Anderson rejoined the ship in time for a visit to Portland, England August 12-18.

The voyage cachet was designed by crew members John Krawczyk and William Engdal and made with three rubber stamps. The outer circle with meridian marks, submarine and lettering was secretly prepared in advance at Pearl Harbor and was stamped in black. The inner design, representing the ice pack, was prepared on board during the voyage, from a tracing of the outline of the island of Oahu and stamped in red. "North Pole" on the sign board was added with a straight line rubber stamp.

A contest was held for the postmark with the winner chosen by a committee of officers and enlisted men. The winning fancy postmark was designed by Earnest F. Holland and carved on board from a linoleum block.

A reported 1,570 covers addressed to friends and families of crew members and Navy and government officials were serviced on board, all of which left the ship with Commander Anderson for posting in Washington. Both the cachet rubber stamps and the cancel block were presented to the Smithsonian Institution following the ship's return to New London, Connecticut.

A runner up cancel in the design competition, was drawn by crew member Richard T. Bearden. Thirty three of these covers were prepared following the voyage, as souvenirs, by the Public Affairs Officer. The hand stamp was then cut to prevent duplication and presented to the Submarine Library and Museum at the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut.

Nautilus' published schedule included a return to her home port of New London via the Panama Canal. A cartoon drawn by crew member William J. McNally, reproduced by mimeograph on card, was distributed to each crew member and scientist aboard. With the voyage cachet and fancy cancel on reverse, the approximately 116 cards issued are the most elusive mementos of this voyage.

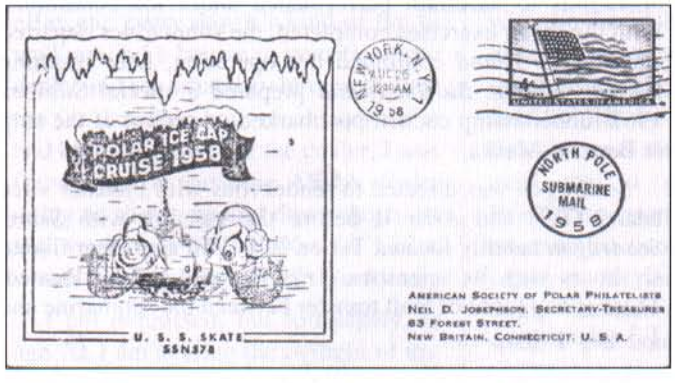
USS Skate (SSN-578) Polar Ice Cap Cruise, 1958

USS *Skate* (SSN-578), third nuclear powered submarine and first of a class of four sisters, was commissioned December 23, 1957. Following shakedown testing, her commanding officer, Commander James Calvert, had campaigned and obtained authorization for Arctic Ocean exploration in the summer of 1958. *Skate* departed New London July 30, 1958 and was approaching Prins Karls Forland island August 9th when a radio broadcast informed the crew of *Nautilus* successful transpolar voyage. After sending a congratulatory message, *Skate* submerged under the ice pack August 10th. She operated under the ice for 10 days, surfaced nine times through openings in the ice and passed under the North Pole August 12th and again on the 17th.

On August 14, *Skate* surfaced in a polynya (lead) adjacent to drifting ice station Alfa and exchanged information, food and mail with the 29 scientists on the station. *Skate* departed the following day with approximately 100 letters from the station, some of which were mailed in Bergen and some in Boston. This mail carried cachets from both *Skate* and the station.

Skate's cruise took her 2400 miles under the ice. Following her explorations, *Skate* visited Bergen and Oslo, Norway, August 23-30. Initial voyage crew mail carried on the trip was sent by diplomatic pouch to the U.S. Embassy in Oslo, then via air to New York where it entered the mail stream with an August 25 or 26 postmark. Later mail was dispatched via Army-Air Force Postal Service, APO 85, Oslo, Norway.

Dr. Neil D. Josephson, then Secretary of the American Society of Polar Philatelists (ASPP), provided a pair of matching rubber stamp cachets for use by *Skate* and *Halfbeak* who accompanied *Skate* on the initial phase of the operation. Dr. Josephson also offered to stamp cruise mail with a "North Pole, Submarine Mail" cancel to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. After receipt of rubber stamp cachets supplied by ASPP, the Admiral decided not to use the submarine mail marking as a postmark since submarines are not authorized post offices. Even though its use had been declined, the circular "Submarine Mail" marking was evidently procured by a staff member and applied to a limited number of covers posted at the end of the cruise.



1958 USS *Skate* polar cruise cachet with typical New York August 25/26 machine postmark. The "North Pole Submarine Mail" stamp was offered as a postmark, but declined by the Submarine Force Commander, It's appearance on some ASPP vers has never been satisfactorily explained.

Skate visited Boston September 22-24 before returning to her home port of New London.

USS Halfbeak (SS-352) Polar Ice Cruise, 1958

USS *Halfbeak*, a conventional diesel-electric submarine, departed New London July 28, 1958 to conduct cold weather operations in the Greenland Sea and Arctic Ocean and made brief submerged runs under the ice. After a visit to Portsmouth, England, *Halfbeak* returned to New London on September 6th. Painted white as Arctic camouflage, *Halfbeak* was dubbed "ghost ship" on her return to New London.

Cacheted covers prepared by ASPP for *Halfbeak* were to have been given to the ship but some appear to have been carried in *Skate* or held at Submarine Base headquarters by the staff. *Halfbeak* cruise covers have a New York postmark of August 25, as do those of *Skate*, or a September 22nd Subase or USS *Fulton* cancel, coinciding with *Skate*'s return to the United States.

USS Skate (SSN-578) Polar Cruise, Winter 1959

Just before entering Bergen, Norway in August 1958, Commander Calvert sent a message to Sir Hubert Wilkins advising him of *Skate*'s successful North Pole venture. In October of that year, Wilkins visited *Skate* at New London, spent a day on board and convinced Calvert that a winter polar operation should be attempted to show the full capability of a nuclear powered submarine. The Navy Department approved a trip the following March. Sir Hubert died less than two months after his visit to *Skate*.

Skate departed New London for her second Arctic cruise March 3, 1959 with the remains of Sir Hubert Wilkins aboard. On March 17th, *Skate* surfaced at the North Pole, smashing through the ice where no ship had been before. There, in a unique setting, the rites of burial at sea were performed and the ashes of Sir Hubert were scattered to the winds in accordance with his last wishes. In 12 days under the pack, *Skate* forced her way to the surface through the ice 10 times and steamed over 3,000 miles. The ship returned to New London April 7, 1959.

Covers issued following this operation bear a special cachet and a fancy cancel. No record was kept of the number of covers issued, but an estimate in the low hundreds seems reasonable considering their general scarcity.

USS Sargo (SSN-583) Winter Arctic Operations, 1960

USS *Sargo* (SSN-583), a Skate class submarine, was commissioned in October 1958 and assigned to the Pacific Fleet. *Sargo* departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, January 18, 1960 to make a full winter assault on the Arctic ice cap. On February 9th, *Sargo*, the first Pacific based submarine to surface at the North Pole, raised the flag of Hawaii as part of her ceremonies.

During this voyage of significant polar exploration, *Sargo* steamed some 6,000 miles under the ice in 31 days and surfaced through the ice, some of which was three feet thick, 16 times. The collection of bathymetric, hydrographic and cryologic data from this trip materially assisted scientists in their quest for knowledge of this vast frontier. This and *Skate*'s operations

proved the possibility of year-round access to the Arctic basin from either the Atlantic or Pacific.

To commemorate *Sargo*'s cruise, the US Post Office Department authorized a navy post office aboard the ship, invited collectors to submit covers by January 15, 1960 and supplied a fancy cancel for use. Following the voyage, collectors noted slight differences in the insert date/time portion of the cancels and concluded that three pairs of cancelers, six devices in all, had been issued. It was later established that, as a result of advance publicity about the operation, *Sargo* carried thousands of pieces of mail on her trip. To handle the volume, mail was canceled simultaneously in the officer's wardroom, the chief petty officer's quarters and the crew's mess hall so that all covers could be canceled while surfaced at the North Pole.

A humorous rubber stamp cachet, showing a polar bear atop the sail of the submarine, was stamped in black to all covers serviced.

In the initial phase of her voyage, *Sargo* conducted joint operations with Coast Guard Icebreaker *Staten Island* also engaged in winter Arctic. *Staten Island* produced a special rubber stamp cachet for her part of the exercise, postmarking covers with her ship's cancel.

USS Seadragon (SSN-584) East-West Polar Transit, 1960

USS *Seadragon* (SSN-584), fourth and last of the *Skate* class placed in service, was assigned to the Pacific Fleet and scheduled to make the transit to Hawaii via the North Pole.

Seadragon departed Portsmouth, New Hampshire Naval Base August 1, 1960 to gain the Pacific Ocean via the Northwest Passage. After passing through Perry Channel, Resolute Bay, Lancaster Sound, Barrow Strait, Melville Sound and McClure Strait, she surfaced at the North Pole August 25th. The crew organized the first baseball game ever played at the top of the world.

Seadragon transited the Bering Strait on September 5th, stopped at Nome, Alaska the first nuclear submarine to visit the 49th state and arrived at Pearl Harbor on September 14, 1960, proving conclusively the feasibility of the Northwest Passage.

A variety of cachets and cancels exist for this operation. Some 16,000 pieces of collector mail received a circular "First East-West Polar Transit" cachet and a two line hand stamp "First Submerged/Northwest Passage." Most mail received a Nome, Alaska machine Sep 5, 1960 machine cancel, although some covers bear a Nome four-bar hand cancel or both.

Each member of the crew and scientific party on board for the passage received a specially prepared cover with both a printed and the hand stamped cachet. Approximately 100 such covers were issued and postmarked with a Nome Sep 5 duplex cancel. A few of these covers are dual postmarked, with a Portsmouth August 1 all purpose hand cancel and the Nome duplex.

USS Skate – USS Seadragon East-Wes Polar Rendez-vous, 1962

In July 1962, USS *Skate* departed New London, Connecticut on the 7th and *Seadragon* left Pearl Harbor on the 12th en route an historic polar rendez-vous. The purpose of the operation, code named SubIcex 1962, was to test sonar capabilities and



Both submarines operated with Icebreaker USS *Burton Island* in torpedo firing exercises following the rendezvous. *Burton Island* prepared an ICEX rubber stamp cachet for this operation, postmarked on arrival of the ship at Barrow, Alaska.

underwater communications in an Arctic environment and gather scientific information. The two ships made a successful rendez-vous under the ice cap on July 31, 1962, and proceeded in company to the North Pole where they surfaced on August 2nd.

Mail from both ships received a circular rendezvous cachet. *Seadragon* mail was posted at Adak, Alaska, (U.S. Navy Br. 13608) August 22nd ; *Skate* mail was posted on return to New London. Approximately 100 number 10-sized cover with the rendezvous cachet stamped in black were mailed to each crew member upon *Skate*'s arrival at New London. Collector and personal crew mail was postmarked with a USS *Fulton August* 29, 1962 four bar hand cancel. Collector mail was serviced on board USS *Fulton,* tender for USS *Skate*, from several days to two weeks following *Skate*'s return. Covers dated after August 29th, although stamped with the rendezvous cachet, were not "voyage carried" covers.

In addition to the special rendez-vous cachet, *Seadragon* prepared a commemorative rubber stamp cachet of her own which was applied to a small number of covers, most probably crew mail. Some 6 3/4" envelopes have the special cachet as a back stamp on covers serviced by *Seadragon.*

Following their polar rendez-vous, on about August 5th, *Skate* and *Seadragon* joined USS *Burton Island* which was engaged in the 1962 Arctic Resupply Operation. The two submarines spent several days conducting torpedo firing operations to ascertain performance under ice conditions. With the firing exercises completed, the submarines departed and *Burton Island* continued her operation, later reaching Barrow, Alaska. *Burton Island* prepared a special SubIcex 1962 rubber stamp cachet; postmarked on arrival of the ship at Barrow, Alaska.

Seadragon was directed to rendezvous with Fletcher's Ice Island (T-3) and *Arlis* II before the meeting with *Skate*. *Seadragon* handily located T-3 on July 23rd and spent five to six hours with its scientists. *Arlis* II could not be located. There is no record of mail transfer between the submarine and T-3 scientists.

Lack of funds and/or availability of ice-suit equipped submarines both combined to limit submarine polar operations during the 1960s. A submarine polar operation was finally mounted in 1969.

Continued next issue.

by Alex Unwin

Computers – the wave of the future

First, by way of introduction, this piece was in the latest and last *Dann Mayo Auction Catalog* (September 10 at INDYPEX). I found it deeply disturbing. I thought it needed a good airing and, for starters, it should go in the periodicals of philatelic organizations with which I am associated in some official capacity.

I obtained Dann's permission to reprint. In response to my e-mail, which I extract below, he made some more very good comments, which I think together with what I will reproduce, belong in an article if we can get him to take the time. The guy is good and there is hope based on those comments referred to above in this paragraph.

Dann, I hadn't read the "Dear Friends" think piece. What a revelation. I would like to see this get wider distribution.

I found your reasoning very cogent and your conclusions scary to me as a frequent participant in shows. First, we are apparently headed for a sterile world sort of like the chat rooms where the social side of philately will disappear. Also, no shows, no exhibits.

Also, as a buyer of covers, I hate the thought of spending all my time on eBay etc. every day. It's kind of fun to walk around a bourse to your favourite dealer and see what they have and chew the fat. I realize how much work it is and how expensive for the dealer; I was for a time, a part-time ASDA dealer going to shows up and down the coast and even two BNAPEXes at all of which I lost money (not cut out for it).

I am depressed, but fortunately, at age 70, I am nearing the twilight of my philatelic career. I do quite agree that one should get into the computer age and have semi-successfully done that. I went in kicking and screaming. But, thanks for the service you have done me and others by your jeremiad and your astute and analytical arguments. These are just my first reactions off the top of my head.

Well, here is his "homily" which you will find on his Web site http://mayocovers.com.

Dear Friends:

Welcome to my last public auction. I've had a good run, but have now decided that it is time to abandon my current auction format. Whether I replace it with the mail auction format or old, go to an all-electronic format, or simply abandon auctions, I have not decided. At the moment, my bet is on some form of an electronic auction, with "none" and "mail-auction" bringing up the rear. That decision is, however, at least six months off, as I will need that long to work my current "real-time" show stock onto my Web site's E-bourse. (This follows my decision, made even earlier, to stop selling at real-time bourses by the end of this year.)

As I have derived almost all of my business income for the last 12 years from public auctions and selling at real-time shows, these are fairly momentous decisions for me. The underlying reasons are complex and I won't bore you with the details here. (For those of you in the business who may be facing the same issues and therefore want more details, I'll be happy to share my thoughts and observations if you'll e-mail me at dannmayo@indy.net.) Briefly, however, the principal reasons relate to the continual rise in overhead expenses for the traditional forms of doing business and the emergence of what I am convinced is not only a viable, but a superior, alternative: the Internet.

Secondary reasons revolve around the fact that I am now 18 years older than I was when I started in the auction and bourse business. During those years, I've learned more about what I'm selling (hallelujah!); making it less necessary for me to have an auction in order to learn how high is up. I'm also finding that the big pushes required to get auction catalogues out and the grind of lugging a couple of hundred pounds (or more) of material around the country to shows isn't nearly as much fun as it used to be when I was younger.

So, I'm pinning the future of my business on the Internet. This is not quite the leap into the deep end that it may appear to those of you not familiar with my Web site. I started this site at the end of August of last year, but have not been able to work on it the way I wanted to for much of the time since then. As a result, it took until February for me to get 1,000 covers up there and today, it still has only about 1,000 to 1,100 covers (out of a total of about 1,300 put up there so far). However, even in its infancy, the site has more than met my hopes and expectations. In

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the first six months of this year, with only a sixth of the material that I usually carry to shows, half of the hours and four per cent of the direct overhead that I spent on shows during the same period, my Internet sales were 50 per cent of my real-time show sales. (In case any of you worry that these savings on overhead will make me rich, don't. All they do is give me a chance to return to a reasonable income without having to raise prices.)

Based on these results, my expectation is that once the site is mature, it will produce from 200 to 300 per cent of my current show sales on about 10 to 12 per cent of my current annual show overhead and no more time than I've been spending on real-time shows. Add to this the material that would have gone into auctions (certainly my own and at least one of my major auction consignors has indicated that he will follow suit) and the potential is much higher.

When in the past I announced that my auction catalogue had been posted to my Web site, I received a few passionate letters from people who said that they were never going to get a computer, so they hoped that I would not abandon paper. At the time, I didn't see that happening (me abandoning paper – they had me convinced that they would never get a computer) for another 15-20 years. Well, I was wrong about that. The growth of e-commerce on the net has completely confounded my guess as to how long the transition from paper to (exclusively) electronic would take.

For those who are still opposed to computers in your lives, I can only urge you to reconsider, because I think that within a few years, you will be left out in the cold, philatelically, without a connection to the net. The economics of doing business electronically are such that I expect that only a minor portion of the commerce in postal history will be transacted on paper or at real-time shows in no more than five years from now. Computers are today very much cheaper and easier to use than they were five years ago; and accessing and navigating the Internet are the easiest things that you can do on a computer. (For those wanting just the Internet without the computer, Web-TV is available for much less than even a low-end computer. I have one client who swears by it.)

Once on the net, you can do damned near anything short of producing offspring. Internet activities in which I've engaged recently include (in addition to selling covers): buying and selling stocks; finding a motel in Milan, Indiana; ordering books from Amazon.com as well as from my local library; doing research on new cars that cut my on-the-lot time down to under an hour and saved me at least $500; getting a recipe for hoe cakes (there were 263 sites dealing with hoe cakes when I looked, but I took the one from Mt. Vernon); buying airline tickets; researching chelation therapy; and sending gobs of e-mail for which I don't have to address or stamp envelopes.

Well, enough of that. Let me devote the remaining space to some suggestions that might find some further lease on life to national level shows. (Internationals, because they tend to be government-subsidized and low-cost local bourses, are a bit better off.) There are two models that I think hold out some promise. The first is a stripped-down version of the current C-of-C qualifier, exemplified by the Plymouth (Michigan) Show. This has the usual 3,000 pages of exhibits supported (for the most part) by a large and diverse bourse. Significantly, however, expenses for the supporting bourse dealers are minimized by the use of Spartan facilities (a high school gym) and by holding the show for only two days rather than the normal three. It's kind of like the earlier Hondas and Toyotas in the days of the old Pontiac Grand Prix (and other large, flashy, needlessly powerful gas-guzzlers that are no longer with us).

The second model has also been in existence for years, in the form of the BNAPS and USCS conventions. In this approach, a specialist society (working through local members in a place that would be nice to visit, the location changing from year to year) arranges for its members who want to get together to do so in a pleasant hotel/resort that has some limited conference facilities. A small group of dealers with material suited to the society's interest(s) is invited to attend. The whole affair, in its social, commercial and presentational aspects, is highly targeted. But by not trying to be all things to all people, it provides all of those who attend the most bang for their bucks.

I want to thank you for your support of my auction over the years. I hope we'll be doing business over the net in the future. To that end, please send your e-mail address to me at dannmayo@indy.net.

Dann Mayo



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by Hans Reiche

Many new collectors have heard specialists talk about different papers on modern stamps. This may be confusing to some because paper is paper. But catalogues do include some of these paper varieties and price them. Because different companies are manufacturing postage stamps each one orders their paper to meet their specific printing machines. Not all printing machines produce good sharp stamp images on the same type of paper.

The thickness of paper is only one consideration. Certain stamps require a thicker paper than others so they may be slightly embossed.

To avoid paper damage during printing process, the paper may need to be thicker than on some other stamps.

Collectors sometimes talk about thick and thin papers. How can one determine if one has a stamp on a thin or a thick paper? Just by looking at it or feeling it will not help much. The difference is measured by just a few thousands of an inch. One can measure paper thickness by using a micrometer that reads in thousands of an inch. But care must be taken not to be confused with the thickness of the gum or the printing ink which can mislead the reading. If one bends the stamp slightly one may be able to determine if the paper is thin or not.

Years ago one could note the grain of the paper when looking through the paper with a strong light, but papers today do not show this grain.

The 1946 seven cents Goose is one modern example. This stamp was found on a grained paper which looks like laid paper and also a thin paper which is fairly rare. So good hunting and do not overlook the paper.

Even though the PO announces most of the new stamp issues unfortunately for the average collectors, who relies to get his new items in his PO, he will be out of luck. Recently the PO has issued and continues to do so philatelic items that are not available in the PO but only from the Antigonish Philatelic Centre and usually with a surcharge. Take for example the recently issued postcards for the Wheatpool or the postcard for the Franconian meeting. Only a few thousands were printed and these could not be obtained from any PO. And now try to get one cancelled the first day.

Collectors may have heard of the idea to reconstruct a sheet of stamps using Mint or Used stamps. This is often of great interest to specialists, but certainly is something anyone can do. It is a lot of fun, often does not cost much and shows how a stamp has been printed and layout before being cut up and used.

Today, many new issues, regular issues and coils are produced with certain additional margins top, bottom, left or right. These margins contain information for the printers as well as serve as improving the looks of complete sheets.

This idea is not new and many countries have adopted this for some years. One country, when starting to issue their first stamp in 1948, immediately began to put on to the margins some interesting information, so called tabs from Israel.

Since each margin will contain certain information that differs from the next in a sheet, it is possible to reconstruct the full sheet using these extra margins. These certainly make a nice display. But do not be surprised if you have some difficulties finding certain positions to make up the full plate.

You may ask how do I know how these full margins look like for all these new issued stamps? The Post Office issues special news information for collectors. These announcements show in detail how these margins look like. This will help in reconstructing all the margins.

Some of the early issues may be hard to find. One such item is the top margin for the Canada Day 1994, Maple Trees. Even the used copies of these tree stamps are hard to find. One of these days, someone will bring out a listing of these margins and then these will become even more popular.

For the last few years Klussendorf and jet-spray cancels have been in the news, but hardly any mention is made of some of the odd cancels that can be found on recent mail. Some of these may be philatelic others not.



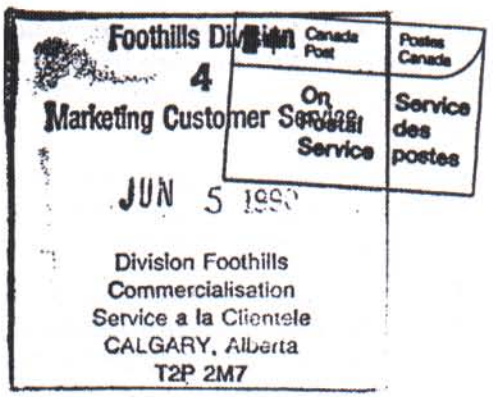
Ottawa, large single ring

Just a few examples of these are shown here to indicate the range of these different cancels.



An Ottawa roller cancel without name and date

Certainly, there must be some collectors of these cancels and many have seen only a short period of usage. It would be interesting to have collectors watch out for them and report them to this magazine. Years ago, *Popular Stamps* magazine used to report any such new cancels, but that publication is gone a long time.



Foothills Division, Marketing Customer Services, Calgary, AB

The Chalon Heads

by Barry Maitland

"Several Heads of Penny Reds" is the title of Chapter Eight in Australian crime writer and architectural professor Barry Maitland's newly released philatelic murder mystery *The Chalon Heads* (326 p.), published by Britain's Orion Books at Cdn. $21.95. The Scottish-born, London-raised, author's fourth novel continues the adventures of London detectives Chief Inspector David Brock and Detective Sergeant Kathy Kolla.

Stamp dealer James Melville calls the cops to Cabot's, a stamp shop and auction house on the Strand. Brock and Kolla need a crash course in philately to help Melville's client, Sammy Starling, whose beautiful young wife Eva has been kidnapped. A trio of ransom notes are involved, each bearing Van Diemen's Land Chalon portrait stamps from Starling's own collection. The price for Eva's safe return is a unique lot of upcoming Cabot's auction: a pre-issue Canada "12d black" cover, dated 4 June 1851 and addressed to Mrs. Sandford Fleming, the stamp designer's wife. Sammy Starling, a specialized Chalon head collector, and author of a chronology of these classic stamps, would give his eye teeth to own the 12 penny cover, but he must sell the rest of his collection, and his worldly holdings, to obtain the Canadian rarity and exchange it for his wife's life.

Maitland craftily combines the search for stamps with the hunt for Eva's captors. Just as collectors assemble pieces of their philatelic puzzles, the detectives corral clues. Of course, this being a stamp-related mystery, nothing is as it seems. If Sammy "China" Starling is named for an opportunistic bird with a gift for mimicry, and has a colourful past, is he for real? Forgery expert, Dr. Tim Waverly, is brought in to duplicate the pricey auction lot and dupe the kidnappers. From the auction floor, to Heathrow Terminal, to Starling's country home in Surrey, and Starling's roost in Myatt's Grove, *The Chalon Heads* tours London and environs at a feature film's pace.

The severed heads are the young Queen Victoria imperforate stamps themselves. It is an eerie coincidence that Starling's missing princess bears more than a passing resemblance to England's long dead queen as pictured in the Chalon portrait used on the Commonwealth stamps. Several characters do lose their heads, literally and figuratively, in Maitland's tale of deception, greed, betrayal, and revenge. The "penny reds" the property of Starling's less advanced collector neighbour, Toby Fitzpatrick, are indeed red herrings, but there is something fishy going on after all. Tim Waverly can duplicate a 12 penny cover, but what other duplicity is he guilty of?

The Chalon Heads bears the Canada envelope on a blood red background for cover art. Every chapter heading features a black and white rendition of a 12 penny. The stamps frame the story, but some characters get framed along the way as well. As police Superintendent Jock McLaren says, "the Starling case is not, essentially, about extortion, kidnapping, decapitation, or murder. It is about postage stamps." (p. 193).

The Chalon Heads is a "thrill of the hunt novel," filled with stamp collecting lore, that will satisfy philatelists and crime solvers alike.

(Reviewed by Brian-Grant Duff)

Air Mail Routes and Rates in South America, 1928-1940

by Dr. Mario D. Kurchan

Dr. Kurchan is to be congratulated for attempting to cover this involved and very large subject in such a small handbook. He not only covers most of the routes, but the rates also in great detail, all of which obviously involved a great deal of research.

Wisely starting with a brief summary of the airlines involved, he has included excellent maps of the routes of each. Numerous books have been written on the history of these airlines and their routes, but the Doctor has included only enough on each for the philatelist's needs. If any collector wishes more detailed information the Bibliography at the end is very good though perhaps more references to the American Air Mail Society catalogue (volume 4) would have been helpful.



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The rate tables are excellent and clearly set out, and the fact that many rates during this period were surcharges for transportation by air is also carefully emphasized. Examples of these surcharges are also shown in numerous illustrations of covers in a concise way and with clear reproductions.

The bilingual edition (which I reviewed) has a translation from Spanish to English which, on rare occasion, has odd phrases or nomenclatures. And in addition there are a few errors in facts. However, these are so few and minor that the shear volume of correct information far overshadows the very few faults. This book is a must for serious collectors or South American aerophilately. Well done! Doctor!

(Reviewed by John Wheeler)

Darnell's Millennium Stamps of Canada Catalogue

The 20th anniversary edition of *Darnell's Millennium Stamps of Canada Catalogue* arrived a few months ago. It is produced each year by Darnell Publishing Ltd. and is edited by Lyse Rousseau. It bears the ISSN 0832-9974 Ottawa National Library designation. This catalogue is published simultaneously in English and French language versions, with more illustrations in full colour.

This catalogue is distinguished by several different features. The most interesting part is the brief anecdotal history of Canada and how New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are the "original founding colonies" of Canada. And how the American Revolution (1776) created "two nations". It provides a brief history lesson which helps the collector of Canadian stamps to better understand how the country "happened." The historical account is useful even to those who were born and educated in Canada, to say nothing about those who live in other countries and collect Canadian stamps. For the better understanding by those latter people, the only thing that is missing is a map of Canada to give them a better idea about the extent of this nation. Maybe Darnell could highlight stamp numbers 938 to 941 elsewhere in the next edition to explain how Canada grew.

Each stamp has a brief description. The reasons for commemorative stamp issues are also briefly explained, and in some cases, are a brief history about the development of Canada over the years.

Darnell adopts the traditional numbering system whereby the number one stamp is the 1/2-cent Queen Victoria issue. This was the first stamp to be produced by the Dominion of Canada. The previous stamps are considered to be "colonial" stamps. The Darnell catalogue also lists many of the better known "error, oddities and freaks." It also contains a list of thematic stamps issued by Canada, and Bell Cashchip telephone cards which contain postage stamp illustrations.

The bottom line is that the Darnell catalogue should be in the library of every Canadian stamp collector. It is designed to answer many questions that a collector may ask and cannot often find without a great deal of time and effort. It is more than a catalogue. It is a valuable research and reference source which can be used when writing up a stamp page.

(Reviewed by Bill Pekonen)

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by "Raconteur"

You might think that islands swarming with wild canaries and called the Canary Islands were named for these birds. But you would be wrong.



The Canary Islands are near the coast of Morocco, a country in north western Africa.

Long, long ago, when Spanish explorers landed on one of the islands, they saw large, fierce dogs there. So they named the island "Canaria." Canaria is derived from the Latin word canis which means dog.



So, the islands (there are seven of them) got their name because of the dogs and the wild birds got their name from the islands!

The Canary Islands are administered as an integral part of Spain. In 1927, they were divided into two provinces: Las Palmas, consisting of the islands of Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria; and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, consisting of Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro.

All the islands are mountainous and of volcanic origin. The highest mountain, Pico del Teide, in Tenerife, tips 3,707 m.



The economy of the islands is essentially agricultural, the main export crops being bananas and tomatoes. Thanks to the climate and its many beautiful beaches, the islands have become a popular tourist resort.





The islands are of historic interest also. It was from Gomera that Columbus departed on the final leg of his historic journey which led to the discovery of the New World.

Later, they became important supply ports for the West Indian trade. They frequently suffered attacks by English, Dutch and Muslim pirates. During the war between Spain and England, in 1797 Admiral Horatio Nelson lost his right arm in an unsuccessful assault on Santa Cruz de Tenerife.



The canary is a small finch that is the most popular cage bird in the world because the male has a beautiful song. All the varieties of domestic canaries are descended from the wild canary, or serin finch, which is native to the Canary Islands and the Azores. The canary was introduced into Europe as a cage bird in the 16th century and since that time more than 50 varieties have been developed.





Notice to Members

A call for nominations of Directors of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is hereby set forth.

Eight (8) Directors will be elected at the annual meeting to be held in Winnipeg, MB at ROYAL *2000* ROYALE on April 29, 2000.

"Nominations must be in writing and be made and seconded by members in good standing of the Corporation. The person nominated must consent to his or her nomination and such nomination to be valid, must be received by the National Office or by the President by January 14, 2000. All nominations will be placed before the Nomination Committee who will prepare a slate of Directors of those nominated to ensure national representation based on levels of membership."

The proposed slate of Directors will be published in the March-April, 2000, issue of *The Canadian Philatelist* along with a short biography of each nominee.

Avis Aux Membres

Ceci est un appel pour la nomination de candidats aux postes de directeurs de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada.

Huit directeurs seront élus à l'assemblée annuelle qui se tiendra à Winnipeg, MB à ROYAL *2000* ROYALE le 29 avril 2000.

"Les nominations doivent être présentées par écrit et faite et secondés par des membres en due forme de la corporation. La personne présentée doit être d'accord avec sa nomination. Les nominations doivent être reçues par le bureau national ou par le Président au plustard le 14 janvier 2000. Toutes les nominations seront envoyées au comité de nomination qui établira une liste de candidats pour assurer une représentation nationale basée sur le ratio des membres."

La liste des candidats proposés sera publiée dans *Le Philatéliste canadien* de mars-avril, 2000. On y inclura une courte biographie de chaque candidat.

Writers' Guidelines

The Canadian Philatelist is the voice of the members of the Royal Canadian Philatelic Society. Our audience is extremely diverse in interests, age and philatelic experience. This publication reflects the collecting interests of Canadians and other readers, but is not composed of articles which are exclusively about Canadian philately.

The editorial goal is to provide a balance of entertaining and informative articles on worldwide philatelic subjects and topics. Articles should provide inspiration, support and directions which help the collector to better enjoy the philatelic hobby.

Manuscript Submission:

Always submit double spaced hard copy. Either legibly handwritten, typewritten or computer generated copy is acceptable. If computer generated, enclose a 3.5 inch disk in either ASCII, Macintosh, or Microsoft Word (any version). The publisher uses Macintosh and the use of a disk saves typesetting time. Identify which program is being used and clearly label the document name. An e-mail option is currently not available. Always enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope – especially if you want material to be returned or answers to your questions.

Each submission should include a name, address, telephone number and (where available) an e-mail address.

Length:

300-1,500 words.

Illustrations:

Articles, whenever suitable, should include photographs, illustrations, drawings, clear sketches, maps or clear photocopies and scanned printouts of same. Colour photographs or colour photocopies are best as they might also be used for a cover. Do not send original stamps or covers. (If your illustrations are on a digitized disk, please send a hard copy. See above instructions re: manuscripts). If more than one illustration is enclosed, always provide a matching keyed caption to describe the essential information. "Jpg" files are acceptable.

Writing Tips:

Write about a subject that you know well. Tell everything possible about the subject that the reader should know. Ask yourself what can the reader do with the information provided in this article and then tell them the answer. Keep the article entertaining and informative. Use a clear, direct writing style. Write as if you were explaining the subject to a collector you just met and don't know their level of knowledge. Using long, complicated words slows the reading pace. Write sentences with about five to 20 words each. Vary the length of sentences throughout the article for added interest. Keep paragraph lengths short – about three to eight lines. Tell the reader how they can best benefit from the information. Look for a unique angle. Before you submit an article, please check all spelling and grammar.

The article can be about philatelic items or topics originating from any country in the world. Preference will be given to previously unpublished material.

Articles which are simply a rehash of previously published material written by others in the past and generally available from other sources will not be accepted. The exception would be if something significant is discovered which has not been previously reported or a correction to factual errors which change previous perceptions.

Articles written by new contributers are always welcome. We do not expect writers to be Pulitzer Prize winners. We are looking for material from collectors who feel their techniques, discoveries and experiences would be of interest and benefit to our members. A typical writer should be a collector who is enthusiastic about sharing his/her interest with others.

These types of material are desired:

- How to – (collecting methods, tips and exhibiting techniques);
- Topics which inspire discussion about controversial subjects and opinions;
- History, nostalgia (classics or contemporary);
- Stories about how stamps can be used to educate children;
- Personal experiences;
- Different forms of collecting philately;
- Interviews and profiles of stamp personalities;
- Technical production and mail handling issues;
- Book Reviews;
- Authoritative and well researched data;
- Reports on special events and new discoveries;
- Award winning exhibit outlines;
- Preliminary conclusions based upon limited information or on other writer opinions;
- Opinions based on assumptions (clarify and list all assumptions); and
- Conclusions based on substantial facts (state sources).

Before writting a long article, write to the Editor first. Use a query letter. Please provide a summary of the topic and some reasons why the readers might be intereseted in the subject. Also provide information on what will be included in the article that it needs to run longer than 1,500 words.

The acceptance and the printing of an article is merely the Editor's judgment of the appropriateness of the work at that particular time. There is nothing personal about any decisions. The article may be of more interest in an upcoming issue. The Editor may decide to discuss an article with the author to make improvements.

Always include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, especially when you want illustrations returned.

Glenn F. Hansen (1922-1999): An Appreciation

Glenn Hansen passed away September 21, 1999 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His major contributions to Canadian philately included his catalogue *The Guidebook and Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* (two editions); his magnus opus *The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada* that he co-authored with W.G. Moffatt and he was the long-time stamp columnist at *The Winnipeg Free Press* where he promoted the hobby to the non-philatelic community.

Born June 29, 1922, in Winnipeg, he lived there all of his life, except for two years spent in Dauphin, Manitoba.

Dauphin is where he began his writing career for the newspapers with a column called "Scopesight" which did not deal with stamps at all. It was a column on outdoor sports with an emphasis on fishing.

He had friends who helped him on things like hunting and dogs and they even had a weekly radio program on CKDM in Dauphin. He and three friends met around a rickety card table with a mike in the centre firmly ensconced in a roll of toilet paper. They were supposed to be answering questions sent in by listeners but most of the time they lied and made up the questions themselves. It was loads of fun and he understood that the program continued on without his help when he went back to the city.

This time reminded him a lot of his old column in *The Buffalo* called "Ask the Editor."

His young years were made happy by the fact that his family owned a log cabin on Lake Brereton in the Whiteshell where he was responsible for fetching water from the lake that was a 15-minute walk through the bush. Fortunately, he wasn't too popular with the mosquitoes, so the only thing that really bothered him was when he woke up some sleepy owl perched in tree along his path. It was here where he also became fond of the black bears and was able to befriend them to the point where his family later worried when he took photos of them from distances of less than 20 feet.

He began collecting things at the lake, mainly rocks that he gathered at the shore while swimming.

He took up stamp collecting with a White Ace album of the stamps of the United States and later another White Ace album for Canada. Sure, this was mainly space filling but a wonderful way to learn a bit about arranging album pages attractively.

He dealt with Fred Peters on Logan Street in Winnipeg in his early days who taught Hansen how to have an eye for condition and cancellations. When Peters moved to Portage and Arlington, he began to deal with Frank Whitebread who had a store on Croydon Avenue.

For a period of time, Hansen specialized in the Small Cents Issue of Queen Victoria and the Admiral Issue of George V. But it was the advent of the Centennial Issue and the use of ultra-violet lamps that made that issue take off with him and others. It was the discovery of 17 varieties of paper that led to a number of Whitebread's customers spending their weekdays visiting all the stamp counters located in drug stores.

Perhaps the next most popular issue for him was the Admiral Issues of King George V, and to him it was the most challenging. As a result of the interest in these two issues, he decided to publish his catalogue of Canadian stamps at a time (1971) when he thought the Centennial Issue was drawing to a close. This was not the case, so a couple of years later he produced the second edition of the catalogue (1973). He was proud that both editions were still being used by collectors at the time of his death.

The last 32 years of his working life was spent as an assistant-treasurer and treasurer of a school division in Winnipeg. He retired from this position in 1987. After retiring, he swung away from the stamps of Canada, after a period of time with the Squared Circles of Canada, to the stamps of Denmark and, most particularly, with a collection of Ferry Post stamps of that country.

He married at the age of 25 and raised three daughters, none of whom were interested in stamps. His wife passed away in 1995 after almost 49 years of marriage.

Before he died, his Squared Circle collection was sold to an undertaker through a well known Winnipeg dealer. The story has since gone the rounds that this undertaker decided to take his stamps with him to the grave and buried his holdings in an hermetically sealed vault under his casket. This made Hansen sick when he heard about it because he felt that all stamp collectors are really just custodians pro-tem of any stamps they possess. He felt that there is sort of an unwritten law that everything passes on to others at some time or another.

His writings include: *The Guide Book and Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* (two editions); The Tagged Stamps of Winnipeg in *The Canadian Philatelist;* The Canadian Stamp Collector in *BNA Topics; The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada* (4th edition with W.G. Moffatt); Mint Stamps in *Maple Leaves;* A Chart of the 1967 Definitive Issue Using the U. V. Light in *BNA Topics;* Canada's Cello-Paqs, Miniature Panes, Miniature Sheets and CAPEX Souvenirs – an Update of an Article by E.J. Whiting in *BNA Topics;* Miniature Sheets That Can Prove Lucrative...but Check for Quality in *Canadian Stamp News;* A Crying Queen to Match the Weeping Princess in *Edmonton Stamp Club Bulletin;* A Postal History of Rat Portage, Keewatin with Some Reference to the Province of Keewatin, its Own Postal and Railway History, 1876-1886 in *BNA Topics; and* The Stamp Collector column in *The Winnipeg Free Press* for over 25 years.

Henry Geoffrey Walburn (1902-1999)

Henry Geoffrey Walburn was born in Bramhall, Cheshire, England on September 21, 1902. He died in Kelowna, British Columbia on September 4, 1999, at the age of 96. Walburn was predeceased by his wife Bernice (nee Delaney) in 1995.

During his lifetime, he sold real estate, worked on farms, owned and operated a large apple orchard and, prior to his retirement, owned and operated a summer resort named Pixie Beach that overlooks Okanagan Lake just north of the Okanagan Centre post office. During much of the above, he was ably assisted by his wife.

Walburn was an accomplished bridge player and belonged to many clubs over the years. An avid reader, he was constantly busy at a number of philatelically-oriented projects. A generous man, he gave freely to a variety of philanthropic causes.

As a precancel collector of Canadian stamps, Walburn had few peers. For nearly 40 years, he owned and edited the *Canadian Precancel* catalogue. The current edition still bears his name. His collection of precancels was one of the most complete ever assembled and he left a photographic record in colour of it for reference purposes to be used and enjoyed by advanced and novice precancel collectors throughout the stamp collecting community.

He was a founding member of the Okanagan Mainline Philatelic Association which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. He belonged to numerous stamp fraternities which included British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS), Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPS of GB) Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC), Postal History Society of Canada (PHSC) and the Precancel Stamp Society (PSS) of the USA. He was an Honourary Member of the Okanagan Mainline Philatelic Association (OMPA), a Fellow of the RPSC and recently received a citation for 50 years of membership in the PSS.

Walburn will be missed by his many friends, especially those in the United Kingdom, United States and Canada, for his sincere and friendly approach to the people and life around him. His advice and counsel will long be remembered.

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA — Founded May 6 1972

PHSC

APS Affiliate 67;
PHS Inc. Affiliate 5A;
RPSC Chapter 134

The **Postal History Society of Canada** was founded to promote the study of the postal history of Canada and its provinces. It publishes the quarterly **PHSC Journal**, whose contents range from fully-researched feature articles to items of current interest – from the pre-stamp era through postmark specialties and regional histories to modern mail mechanization.

Each year the Society holds meetings at shows across Canada. The Annual Meeting is held in the early summer, and is supplemented by Regional Meetings, usually featuring postal history seminars given by Society members. Eight different Study Groups are devoted to the detailed examination of various specialized aspects of postal history.

Membership dues are $15.00 per year, with a one-time admission fee of $1.00. For a membership application form please contact the Secretary, R. F. Narbonne, 216 Mailey Drive, Carleton Place, Ontario, K7C 3X9.

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P.O. Box/C.P. 929, Station/Succ Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1
Editor: Bill Pekonen, (604) 270-8726
201-7300 Moffat Rd., Richmond, BC, V6Y 1X8
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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 événement soit listé 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 à rpsc@interlog.com. Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. **CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC.**

REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

NOVEMBER 6, 1999: Trenton Stamp Club annual Exhibition and Bourse will be held on Saturday, November 6, 1999 at the Trenton Seniors' Club (105 Club) situated at the corner of Bay and Campbell Streets in Trenton. Show open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and ample parking. More than 10 dealers, children's table, exhibits, punch board, lunch counter, draws and prizes. For more information, contact (905) 855-5199.

NOVEMBER 6, 1999: Kent County Stamp Club will hold its 69th Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wheels Motor Inn at the corner of Richmond Avenue and Keil Drive in Chatham, ON. Free admission and parking. Stamps, postal history, philatelic supplies and dealers. For more information, call Paul McDonell at (519) 354-1845.

FEBURARY 19-20, 2000: NIPEX 2000 Exhibition and Bourse sponsored by the Niagara Philatelic Society will be held at the Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, ON, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed exhibition. Ed Yonelinas, R.R. 1, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0, or e-mail: mastamps@computan.on.ca.

FEBURARY 26-27, 2000: VICTOPICAL 2000

MARCH 18, 2000: the Oxford Philatelic Society is sponsoring their 51st Annual OXPEX 2000 on Saturday, March 18, 2000 at John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive in Woodstock, ON (Hwy. 401 & Hwy. 59 North). Also the All Ontario Topical Exhibition OTEX 2000 is being held at same location. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking is free. Come and see competitive stamp exhibits, Judge's critique, 16 stamp dealers, prize draws, displays, Canada Post counter, youth area for junior collectors and refreshments. Contact Gib Stephens, P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock, ON N4S 8X8.

APRIL 15, 2000: Kitchener-Waterloo celebrates 65 years of local collecting at STAMPFEST 2000 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Community Reform Church, 1275 Bleams Rd., Kitchener, ON.

JUNE 2-4, 2000: PIPEX 2000

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

MARCH 24-26, 2000: Annual Edmonton Spring National. Fantasyland at the "Mall." Lots of dealers, exhibits, seminars, junior stuff and entertainment. Plan now to be here for some great stamping. ESC P.O. Box 399, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Keith Spencer (780) 437-1787

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

NOVEMBER 5-7, 1999: FLOREX '99 at the Orlando Expo Center and Orlando Marriott Downtown in Orlando, Florida. The 50th and final FLOREX – a salute to philately in Florida sponsored by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. Annual meeting and conventions of: America Helvetia Philatelic Society, Cuban Philatelic Society, Prexie Study Group of BIA and many regional and local philatelic meetings. Over 40 stamp dealers from across the USA. For more information contact: Phil Stager, 4184 51st Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL, 33711 or philstag@juno.com

2000

MAY 22-28, 2000: THE STAMP SHOW 2000, a celebration of philately for the millennium, with FIP patronage, to be held at Earls Court in London. Commissioner: Mr. Clifford R. Guile, P.O. Box 180, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3W3.

MAY 28-JUNE 4, 2000: WIPA2000 in Vienna, Austria. Canadian Commissioner: Otto F. Zeman, 702-150 Queen Street South, Kitchener, ON, N2G 4T7.

OCTOBER 6-14, 2000: ESPANA 2000, Madrid, Spain. Canadian Commissioner Major R.K. "Dick" Malott, Ret'd, CD, FRPSC, AHF, 16 Harwick Crescent, Nepean, ON, K2H 6R1. Tel: (613) 829-0280; fax (613) 829-7673; e-mail: rmalott@magma.ca, Bulletin No. 1 and application forms available now.

2001

JUNE 9-15, 2001: BELGICA 01, an international exhibition with FIP partonage to be held in Brussels, Belgium. Canadian Commissioner is: Mr. J.J. (Jan) Danielski, 71 Gennela Square, Scarborough, ON, M1B 5M7; call (416) 283-2047; fax: (416) 291-3779, e-mail: jj.danielski@sympatico.ca.

JULY 30-AUGUST 5, 2001: PHILANIPPON '01 an FIP World Stamp Exhibition to be held in Tokyo, Japan covering all classes. Canadian Commissioner is Mr. William G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC, V6M 3A7; tel: (604) 261-1953; fax: (604) 261-3459.

OCTOBER 16-21, 2001: HAFNIA '01, Charles Verge is the Canadian Commissioner for this exhibtion in Copenhagen.

Early French Cancels – The Masked Stranger

by Napoleon

Part One

Several years ago, I borrowed a copy of the *Yvert et Tellier French* catalogue and went through my collection and duplicates. I was looking for varieties, including plate flaws, those fly specks that result when a printing plate has a defect in it that marks/mars the stamps produced.

But the cancellation often covered just the spot where the plate flaw would be. The cancellations didn't come in just one shape or size, they varied to cover all evidence of the flaw. This led me to wonder why there were so many different cancellations, what they meant and if they could be helpful. Thus, à la *The Lone Ranger*, the Masked Stranger on the stamp became useful rather than confusing.

After several months of checking literature, Internet sites and thousands of stamps in dealers' stock and local auction lots, I knew enough to be dangerous. This article shares the knowledge, so you too will be able to endanger your wallet and local dealers.

French stampless covers had postal markings applied for many years before France issued its first adhesive stamps. When stamps came into use, the postal service needed to cancel the stamps on the cover so they could not be reused. France already used Circle Date Stamps to mark the origin of the mail, as well as its intermediate and final stops. Post office officials wanted another mark to cancel the stamps.

This gave rise to the typical cover shown in Figure 1. The Circle Date Stamp marks the letter as mailed in Lyon. The PD-in-rectangle denotes payment of postage through to a foreign destination (Udine, Italy). The 1818 in a diamond-of-dots cancels the stamps.

The earliest common cancellation is a diamond-shaped grill of six rows of six smaller diamonds.



Figure 1 - Cover from Lyon to Udine, Italy, with normal early arrangement of postal markings.

This grill is shown in Figure 2 on the first imperforate Head of Ceres issue. This grill comes into use with the Ceres issue in 1849. If there were multiple stamps to cancel (or even if there were not!) an endless grill could be used, starting in 1851. This grill was also made up of small diamonds but they were five rows deep and endless.

Sometimes the difference between six rows of diamonds (normal grill) and five rows of diamonds (grille au rouleau) is the only way to tell which cancellation is on a particular stamp.



Figure 2 - six by six diamond-shpaed grill on Head of Ceres imperf.

The cancellation more than doubles the value of this imperforate Emperor Louis Napoleon stamp.

There is a second imperforate head of Ceres issue. The second, Bordeaux, issue was printed during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Both Ceres issues have lines of shading under the eye. On the first issue, the shading lines curve from the upper left to the lower right. On the second imperforate issue, the lines are horizontal or run from lower left to upper right.

By the time the second imperforate Ceres issue was produced, France had two perforated issues of stamps, so some of the Bordeaux issue stamps were privately perforated, mostly 13 by 13, although some are 15 by 15 or 16 by 16.

By the time of the second imperforate Ceres issue, one of the most common cancellations was the numerals-in-diamond-of-dots. The numerals come in two sizes: the early, small petits chiffres and later large, gros chiffres. Each number represents a unique French post office.

In Figure 1, 1818 is the petits chiffres cancel for Lyon.

Detective Case

The stamps of the perforated Ceres issue are perforated 14 by 13-1/2. But this stamp is perforated 16 by 16. How can the cancel help identify the stamp? The 15 by 15 and 16 by 16 stamps come from the departments (provinces) of le Cher and Lot-et-Garonne, and from the Marseille central post office. The gros chiffres cancellation is from St. Pierre-le-Moutier, which is in the department of Nièvre. Nièvre is adjacent to le Cher!

The stamp probably is a privately perforated copy of the Bordeaux issue. The orientation of the lines of shading under the eye buttress this conclusion as they run southwest to northeast, as in the Bordeaux issue.

These are examples of differences one can find when sorting through a bundle of used stamps. One may find a treasure in a load of junk.

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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.

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219 - 675 East 5th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V5T 4P1

I-26992 John Stefanek
655 W Irving Park Rd., # 4116
Chicago, IL 60613-3198
USA
E-MAIL:
john.stefanek@can.com
INTERESTS: Canada sheets, Newfoundland, Theatre

I-26993 Augustin Cociardi
565 Rymal Rd. E, Unit 9
Hamilton, ON L8W 1B4
E-MAIL:
agustus34@hotmail.com
INTERESTS: Armed Forces, Nature

I-26994 Ian McMahon
P.O. Box 783
Civic Square, ACT 2608
AUSTRALIA
E-MAIL:
ian.mcmahon@anu.edu.au
INTERESTS: Canadian, New Zealand & Australian Postal Stationary

I-26995 Jerome Leclerc
101 St. Pierre St.
Quebec, ON G1K 4A3
E-MAIL:
linomond@total.net
INTERESTS: Canada and World

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INTERESTS: Canadian, France, U.S.A.

I-26997 Joe Petitto
605 Wentworth Drive
Richardson, TX 75081-5623
USA
E-MAIL: jpet@swbell.net
INTERESTS: Canada, USA, Japan, Italy, Germany, Vatican city, Greece

I-26998 William Ault
25 McLeod Dr.
Aurora, ON L4G 5G3

I-26999 Lawrence Rooney
4137 85th St. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33709
USA

I-27000 Albert Brown

I-27001 Hugo Deshaye
102 Garceau
Courcelette, QC G0A 1R2
E-MAIL:
hugo.philatelik@videotron.ca
INTERESTS: Canadian & World Wide Stamps

I-27002 Richard Stead
P.O. Box 21105
St. John's, NF A1A 5B2
E-MAIL: rstead@avalon.nf.ca
INTERESTS: Newfoundland, Iceland, Faroes, St. Pierre & Miquelon

I-27003 Thomas Salopek
E-MAIL:
tsalopek@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca
INTERESTS: Canadian, Mint

I-27004 John Wilson
3626 Essex Pond Quay
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
USA
E-MAIL: wilsonje@erols.com
INTERESTS: Canada pre-1950, MNH and Provinces

I-27006 Christopher Tyson
172 Lake Park Road, RR #2
Carleton Place, ON K7C 3P2
E-MAIL:
cstyson@netscape.net

Deceased / Nécrologie

La Croix, Norman C.D. (L-15689), Petawawa, ON

Moore, Betty D. (I-20071) Brighton, ON

Change of Address / Changement d'adresse

Ahmad, Shakeel (I-26964) 45 Lott Ln., Staten Island, NY 10314, USA

Chauvin, Franáois (I-26570) 4 rue de la Rovere, 48005 Mende, Cedex, FRANCE

Gompel, Bill C. (I-26419) P.O. Box 120367, West Melbourne, FL 32912, USA

Holleman, Arnold F. (L-23259) 2685 Chemin de la Martinette, Lorgues, 83510, FRANCE

Krohn, Randy (I-26984) 2058 Connaught St. Regina, SK S4T 4T7

Limbourn, Brian W. (I-22459) 10 Aldworth Cres., Gosnells, WA 6110, AUSTRALIA

Sherk, Douglas R. (I-22756) 39 Millbridge Cr., Fonthill, ON L0S 1E1

Simon, Michael F. (L-16031) 6305 Applewood St., Portage, MI 49024-2374, USA

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Von Hagen, Elmore D. (I-15550)333-35 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, MB R7A 1Y5

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AJAX PHILATELIC SOCIETY

RPSC Chapter 163 meets 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, September to June at Ajax Public Library, 65 Harwood Ave. S., from 6 to 9 p.m. 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 (APO)

Les membres de l'APO, chapitre 190 de la SRPC, se réunissent tous les jeudis de début septembre à fin avril, de 18h30 à 21h00. Les réunions ont lieu au Châlet Fontaine, 120 rue Charlevoix à Hull (Québec). Carte de membre 20 $ (10$ pour les moins de 16 ans). Vendeurs, encans, exposition. Les visiteurs et les nouveaux membres sont toujours les bienvenus.

Members of the APO (Chapter #190) meet every Thursday from the beginning of September to the end of April, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Meetings take place in the Châlet Fontaine, 120 Charlevoix, Hull, Québec. Membership $20 ($10 under 16). Dealers, aucrtions, show and bourse. Visitors and new members are always welcome. More for more information: A. Bossard, 5-1160 Shillington, Ottawa, ON K1Z 7Z4; Tel. (613) 722-7279; courriel (e-mail): isabelle.alain@sympatico.ca

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Section adulte: Tous les lundis soir de 19h. à 21h. Section junior: Tous les samedis matin de 9h. à 11h; au Centre socio-culturel de Boisbriand, 480 rue Chavigny, Broisbriand, QC, J7G 2J7; information: Louis-Georges Dumais (450) 979-7371; Jacques Charbonneau (450) 430-6460.

BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 73 meets 2nd 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 (2-4 p.m.) and 3rd Tuesday year round (7:30-9:30 p.m.) at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.) Brampton, ON. 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, ON. Doors open at 7 p.m., short business meeting at 8 p.m., 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 p.m. in the Amenity Room, Grosvenor Building, 1040 W. Georgia St. Information: B.C.P.S., 2955 West 38th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6N 2X2.

BROCK / PRESCOTT STAMP CLUB

Meets third Wednesday, Sept. to May at 7 p.m. at Wall Street United Church, 5 Wall St., Brockville, ON. Roy Brooks, tel./fax: (613) 342-7569.

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

CAMBRIDGE STAMP CLUB

Meets third Monday of the month, Sept. to June at 7 p.m. Short meetings at 8 p.m. at Allen Bradley Cafeteria, Dundas Street, Cambridge, ON. Two dealers, club circuit, visitors welcome. Charlie Hollett (519) 740-6657, 3-10 Isherwood Ave., Cambridge ON, N1R 8L5.

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. No formal meetings but members meet at the RA Stamp Club meetings at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, ON, at 7:30 p.m. 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 on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7 p.m., at Lippa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, ON. Contact: Joseph Berkovits, 33 - 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, M5A 1N1. Tel.: (416) 635-1749.

CANADIAN FORCES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets first and third Wednesday Sept. to May 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dempsey Community Centre, Ottawa, ON. Hendrick Burgers 737-2993.

CANADIAN FORCES BASE TRENTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 89 meeting on the first and third Wednesday of every month from September to June at the Trenton Seniors' Club (Club 105) at the corner of Bay and Campbell Streets starting at 6:45 p.m. All stamp collectors and visitors are very welcome. For more information, call G. A. Barsi at (613) 394-2024, M. Leedham at (613) 392-7462 or S. Taylor at (613) 393-4316.

COLBORNE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 205 meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, September to May inclusive at 7 p.m. in the Drop-in Centre, Victoria Square, Colborne, ON. All stamp collectors welcome, including Juniors age 10-16 years. Information: Mary Jackson, Box 33, Castleton, ON, K0K 1M0, phone (905) 344-7882.

CREDIT VALLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY - MISSISSAUGA

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

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) 425-1545.

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 p.m., at Archbishop MacDonald High School, south entrance cafeteria, 142 St. and 108 Ave. Correspondence: Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Information, contact Keith Spencer at (403) 437-1787.

ESSEX COUNTY STAMP CLUB (WINDSOR)

Chapter 154 meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (4th Wednesday in July and August) at the Teutonia Club, 55 Edinborough, Windsor, ON. Meetings start at 7 p.m., program at 8 p.m. Lots of parking; all visitors are welcome. Information: Essex

County Stamp Club, c/o David L. Newman, 1165 Wigle Ave., Windsor, ON, N9C 3M9, (519) 977-5967.

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 p.m. Visitors always welcome. Information from the President: Margaret Allen, R.R. 1, Fenelon Falls, ON, K0M 1N0.

FREDERICTON DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 148 of The RPSC meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from September to May. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.and are held at the Hugh John Fleming Forestry Centre, 1350 Regent St. For further information, please contact Ron Smith, 12 Chateau Dr., McLeod Hill, NB, E3A 5X2 or call (506) 453-1792, or e-mail: rugbyron@nb.sympatico.ca

FUNDY STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB

Chapter 26892 meets 1st Thursday of every month (except July and August) at 7 p.m. at Atlantic Baptist University, 333 Gorge Rd., Moncton, NB.

GREATER VICTORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 32 meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay. Circuit books, auction and special programs 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 p.m. on 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays, September to June except holidays, and 2nd Monday of July, at Bishop Ryan Secondary School, Quigley Road and Albright Street, in east-end Hamilton, ON. Visitors and juniors welcome. Information: Clare Maitland (Secretary), Box 60510, 673 Upper James St., Hamilton, ON, L9C 7N7; e-mail: stamps@hwcn.org or visit their website at: www.hwcn.org/-ip029

INSURANCE & BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets third Thursday of each month Sept. to June at 6:30 p.m. on 23rd Floor 390 Bay Street, Toronto, ON. M5H 2Y2. John Titterton, Secretary, (519) 927-3548.

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 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Information from Secretary: Mr. Allan Burk, 43 Sudbury Dr., Chatham, ON N7L 2K1.

KINGSTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 49 meets 2nd Monday, September-May and 4th Monday, September-November and January-April, at 7 p.m., Regional Correctional Staff College, 443 Union St. W,. Kingston, (NE of intersection with Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd.). Free parking, wheelchair accessible, visitors always welcome. Information: Past 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 Albert McCormick Arena, Parkside Dr., Waterloo. Visitors welcome. Information: Betty J. Martin, P.O. Box 43007, Eastwood Square Post Office, Kitchener, ON, N2H 6S9, (519) 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 8 p.m., visitors welcome. Sec.: D. Lein, 232 Dease St., Thunder Bay, ON, P7C 2H8.

LAKESHORE STAMP CLUB - CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE DE LAKESHORE

Chapter 84 meets at Dorval Strathmore United Church, 310 Brookhaven Avenue, Dorval, QC, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, September to June at 7 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Information: John Cooper, President, P.O. Box 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, QC, H9R 4N5.

Le chapitre 84 de la SRPC, se réunit tous les jeudi de début septembre à fin juin, à 19h00. Les réunions ont lieu au Dorval Strathmore United Church, 310 avenue Brookhaven, Dorval, QC. Les visiteurs et les nouveaux membres sont toujours les bienvenus. Information: John Cooper, Président, P.O. Box 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, QC H9R 4N5.

LETHBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 57 meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. except June, July and August when there are no meetings. Meetings are at the Canadian Western Natural Gas Co. building at 410 Stafford Dr. N., Lethbridge, AB, T1H 2A9.

MEDICINE HAT COIN &STAMP CLUB

Chapter 146 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Dot Wilkinson Room (SW door) of Westminster United Church - 101 6th Street SE. Correspondence: P.O. Box 1163 Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 7H3.

MIDDLESEX STAMP CLUB

Chapter 204 meets every other Friday at 7 p.m. from September to May (except December) in St. Martin's Church basement, 46 Cathcart St., London. Visitors welcome. For more information call Doug Creighton, (519) 471-2978.

MILTON STAMP CLUB

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

NELSON STAMP CLUB

Meets third Thursday of each month except December at 7 p.m. at #105-402 W. Beasley, Nelson, BC V1L 5Y4.

NORTH BAY & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

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

NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month (except July and August), 7:30 p.m. in the Edwards Garden, Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Leslie Street), Don Mills, ON. Sales circuit, auctions, speakers. Visitors always welcome. Information: Ben Marier, (416) 492-9311.

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 p.m. 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 the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. 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.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191 meets the third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican

Church, 149 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound, ON. Activities include trading, auctions, circuit books. Visitorsare 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, ON. Trading and junior program at 7 p.m., regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Speakers, mini auctions, draw prizes, contests, dealers. Information: Gib Stephens, P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8.

PENTICTON AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 127 meets the first Sunday of each month 2 to 4 p.m. at the United (Blue) Church Hall, 696 Main St., Penticton, BC. Visitors and prospective members and juniors are always welcome. For more information: K. Giesen, 217 Redwing Pl., Penticton, BC, V2A 8K6. Tel.: (250) 493-0188.

PERTH STAMP CLUB

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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 on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 p.m. 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 p.m. at the Saint John High School, Canterbury Street, Saint John, NB. Visitors and new members welcome. Information: Saint John Stamp Club, c/o James Young, 16 Mountain Rd., Saint John, NB, E2J 2W8.

ST. CATHARINES STAMP CLUB

Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month (except for July and August) at the Holy Cross Secondary, St. Catharines, ON. Information: Mrs. Sinclair, 25 Permilla St., St. Catharines, ON, L2S 2E9.

ST. JOHN'S PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (except July and August), 8 p.m. 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, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Saskatoon Field House, 2020 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK. 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 second Saturday of each month, except July and August, at the Sidney Regional Library, in the Nell Horth Room, at 2 p.m. Sales circuit, presentations, and auctions every meeting. Visitors welcome. Information: (250) 479-6513.

LA SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE QUÉBEC

La S.P.Q. tient ses réunions régulières les premiers et troisièmes mercredis du mois au sous-sol de l'église St-Rodrigue, 4760 1ère avenue, porte no 10, Charlesbourg. Les réunions ont lieu de 19h à 22h. Pour information, écrire à: S.P.Q., C.P. 2023, Québec, QC, G1K 7M9

LA SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE LA RIVE SUD

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SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB

Meets on the first Tuesday of each month, year round, at the Hanover Library Complex, 451 10th Avenue Street, Hanover, ON. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11, Clifford ON, N0G 1M0. E-mail pkritz@greynet.net. Club President is Peter Kritz, RR3, Hanover, ON N4N 3B9. Secretary is Jim Measures, P.O. Box 11, Clifford, ON, N0G 1M0. Annual Exhibition and show will be held on Saturay, May 6, 2000. Telephone (519) 327-8265 or (519) 364-4752.

STRATFORD STAMP CLUB

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

SUDBURY STAMP CLUB

Chapter 85 meets on the second 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.

THE PHILATELIC CLUB OF MONTRAL

Chapter 122 meets on the third Thursday of each month (Starting in September) at 7:30 p.m. at Le Manoir, 5319 Notre Dame de Grace (corner Decarie Blvd.), Montreal. Contact: Lloyd Slaven, 1079 Emerson Cres., Chomedy, QC, H7W 1H6; e-mail: lslaven@macten.net .

TORONTO HARMONIE TAMP CLUB

Chapter 94 meets the 1st Monday of the month January-May and September–November at 1460 Bayview Ave., Toronto in the meeting room of the apartment building at 7:30 pm. New members always welcome. For further information call J.G. Doehler at (416) 438-4862.

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Truro, Nova Scotia Philatelic Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month (except July and August) at Success Business College, 100 Victoria St. at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

UNION PHILATÉLIQUE DE MONTRAL

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

VANCOUVER ISLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 52, meets monthly at 7:30 p.m., the 4th Thursday at St. Aidan's Church Hall, 3707 St. Aidan's St., Victoria, BC. Contact R. Clarke, Secretary, Vancouver Island Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 6537, Postal Station 'C', Victoria, BC V8P 5M4. Visitors always welcome.

WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Chapter 14 meets 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays (except July and August), 7:30 p.m. 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 on the first and third Thursdays (except July and August), 7 p.m. 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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