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Le Philatéliste canadien

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Journal of THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA

Revue de LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

A fabulous floral philatelic tradition continues...

with Canada Post's latest floral-themed stamps—Peonies. The flowers and foliage of the 'Elgin' and the 'Coral 'n Gold' bloom big and bright on these gorgeous stamps and collectibles. Pick one—or pick them all for your collection today!

Peonies blossom onto the scene on March 3, 2008

De fleur en fleur... Une fabuleuse tradition philatélique se perpétue

à Postes Canada, qui vous propose sa plus récente émission aux motifs floraux consacrée aux pivoines. Les fleurs de la 'Elgin' et de la 'Coral 'n Gold', tout comme leur feuillage, brillent plus que jamais sur ces splendides timbres et articles de collection. Cueillez-les à l'unité ou collectionnez-les tous dès aujourd'hui !

Cette année, les pivoines fleuriront dès le 3 mars !



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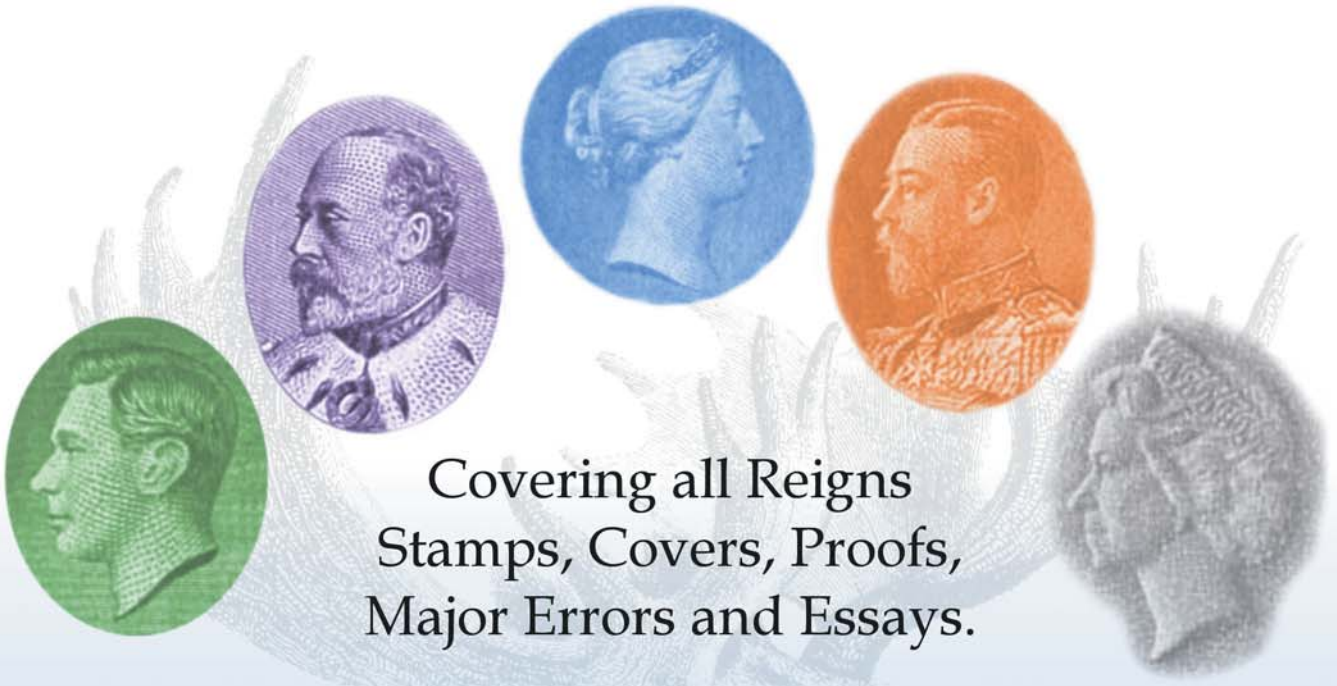
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mgnowlan@nb.sympatico.ca

George Pepall, FRPSC, Kitchener, ON
pepall@rogers.com

David Piercey, Edmonton, AB
david.piercey@epsb.ca

W. John Sheffield, London, ON
john@johnsheffield.com

Editor – Rédacteur
Tony Shaman, FRPSC
PO Box 43103, Eastwood Square
Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9
tshaman@rogers.com

Associate Editor – Rédacteur Associé
Grégoire Teyssier, Sillery, QC
gteyssier@videotron.ca

National Office – Bureau National
Peter Butler, Director / Directeur
director@rpsc.org
Margaret Schulzke, Executive Assistant / Adjointe Exécutive
info@rpsc.org
P.O. Box / C.P. 929, Station, Succ Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1
Tel/Tél: (416) 921-2077
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THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) is the successor to the national society founded in 1887. Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in stamps. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced collector, The RPSC offers a number of services that will be of interest to you. Here are just a few:

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST **-** The international award winning bi-monthly magazine of The RPSC, it provides stamp collectors information and news – for members and from the members. Each year, the author of the best article published in *The Canadian Philatelist* receives the Geldert medal.

SALES CIRCUIT - The Sales Circuit is a useful method of disposing of surplus material and acquiring other material for your collection. Details on request.

ANNUAL MEETING - An annual convention held in a different locale each year provides an ideal opportunity to meet friends, exchange ideas, and get advice on your collection or exhibition at which exhibitors can qualify for international shows. You will also get a chance to visit a dealer bourse and attend interesting and informative seminars.

GROUP INSURANCE - Group insurance is available for members to obtain coverage for their personal collections. Chapters can arrange third party liability coverage to protect the club and its events. Both policies have substantially lower premiums than non-members would pay for similar packages. Details are available on both types of insurance, upon request, from the National Office.

CHAPTERS - The RPSC has a network of local clubs across Canada. Chapter meeting details are published in The Canadian Philatelist. A great way to network with other collectors in your area.

THE INTERNET - The Society has a Web site www.rpsc.org where members can find out about the latest developments, coming events and link up to many other stamp collecting sites. As a member, your e-mail and Web site address can be added.

OTHER SOCIETIES - As the national society for stamp collectors, The RPSC works in partnership with many other societies and associations, such as the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association and Canada Post Corporation.

CANADA POST - The Society maintains a Canada Post Liaison Officer in Ottawa to represent the Society, its members and chapters and collectors in general. Members may raise issues of mutual interest with Canada Post Corporation through this office.

Join The RPSC!

La Société royale de philatélie du Canada (SRPC) est la digne successeur de celle fondée en 1887. Tout individu intéressé par la collection de timbres-poste peut en devenir membre. Que vous soyez un collectionneur débutant ou chevronné, la SRPC vous offre une gamme de services qui sauront vous intéresser. En voice quelques-uns:

LE PHILATÉLISTE CANADIEN - Cette publication bimestrielle, primée au niveau international, offre aux membres des informations et des nouvelles sur le monde philtélique rédigées par ses membres. Chaque année, la médaille Geldert est décernée à l'auteur du meilleur article publié dans Le philatéliste canadien.

CARNETS DE TIMBRES EN APPROBATION - Ils sont disponibles sur demande. C'est une façon facile de disposer de matériel en surplus ou d'acquérir des nouvelles pièces pour sa collection.

RÉUNION ANNUELLE - Une convention annuelle se tient dans différentes parties du pays. Une exposition de niveau national fait partie intégrante de la convention et permet à l'exposant de se qualifier pour les expositions internationales. De plus vous pouvez y visiter les tables de négociants et assister à des conférences.

ASSURANCES - les membres peuvent obtenir une assurance-groupe afin de protéger leurs collections personnelles. Les chapitres peuvent souscrire une assurance responsabilité vis-à-vis des tiers pour protéger un club et les évènements qu'il organise. Les primes pour les deux polices sont de beaucoup inférieures à ce qu'un non-membre paierait pour un contrat similaire. Vous pouvez obtenir des renseignements sur ces deux types de police en vous adressant au Bureau national.

CHAPITRES - Des clubs locaux au Canada où les membres de La SRPC reçoivent un accueil chaleureux. Les renseignements sont publiés dans Le philatéliste canadien.

L'INTERNET - La SRPC a un site d'Internet www.rpsc.org où les membres obtiennent les informations à date, les événements philatéliques à venir et peuvent accéder à plusiers autres sites philatéliques.

PARTENARIAT - La Société a des ententes avec plusieurs autres sociétés et associations philatéliques, notamment l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste et la Société canadienne des postes (SCP).

POSTES CANADA - La SRPC a un agent de liaison situé à Ottawa pour représenter La Société, ses Chapitres, ses membres et les collectionneurs en général auprès de la SCP. Les membres peuvent soumettre des questions d'intérêt commun aux deux Sociétés par l'entremise de cet agent.

Joignez-vous à La SRPC

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DEPARTMENTS and COMMITTEES / SERVICES et COMITÉS

Canada Post Liaison / Liaison avec Postes Canada
Richard Logan, Ottawa, ON dicklogan@rogers.com

Chapter & Affiliates Liaison / Liaison avec les clubs membres et affiliés
George Pepall, FRPSC, Kitchener, ON pepall@rogers.com

Royale/Royal Conventions, National, Regional & Local Shows / Congrès Royale/Royal, expositions nationales, régionales et locales
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CSDA Liaison / Liaison avec l'ACNTP
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Development and Planned Giving / Développement et dons par anticipation
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Ethics Committee / Comité des plaintes
Col. William G. Robinson, FRPSC, Vancouver, BC info@rpsc.org

50-Year Club/Le Club des 50 ans
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FQP Liaison / Liaison avec la FQP
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Historian / Historien
Charles J. G. Verge, FRPSC, FRPSL, Toronto, ON cjgverge@rogers.com

Insurance Plan / Plan d'assurances
Peter Butler, Toronto, ON pbutler@ilap.com

International Liaison / Liaison internationale
Charles J. G. Verge, FRPSC, FRPSL, Toronto, ON cjgverge@rogers.com

Legal Advisor
Theodor Kerzner, QC, Kerzner, MacDermid, McKillop, Toronto, ON

National & Regional Judging Program and Coordinator of Reciprocity Agreements / Programme national et régional d'évaluation, et coordonnateur des accords de réciprocité
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National & Regional Medals and Awards / Prix et médailles aux niveaux national et provincial
Raymond Ireson, FRPSC, Roxboro, QC info@rpsc.org

National Office / Bureau national
Peter Butler, Director/ Directeur
Margaret Schulzke, Executive Assistant / Adjointe Exécutive
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Public Relations / Relations publiques
Michael O. Nowlan, Oromocto, NB mgnowlan@nb.sympatico.ca

RPSC National Exhibits Data / Données sur les expositions nationales de la SRPC
Robert McGuinness, West Vancouver, BC mrmacis@shaw.ca

RPSC Website / Site internet de la SRPC
D. Robin Harris, FRPSC, webmaster@rpsc.org

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Tel/Tél Fax/Télécpr: (403) 932-2947 rpscsale@telus.net

Slide Program / Diapothèque
Elizabeth Sodero, FRPSC, Halifax, NS sodero@ns.sympatico.ca

T.A.P.E. Executive Director / T.A.P.E. Directeur exécutif
Peter Butler, Toronto, ON pbutler@ilap.com

The Canadian Philatelist / Le philatéliste canadien
P.O. Box/C.P. 929, Station/Succ Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1
Editor / Rédacteur, Tony Shaman, FRPSC, PO Box 43103, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9
tshaman@rogers.com
Advertising: Jim Szeplaki (905) 734-0641, jims@trajan.ca

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Revue de La
SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

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the cover / page couverture:

Carl Fabergé's Winter Egg is considered to be one the artist's most important creations. The egg is carved out of rock crystal and sprinkled with more than 3,000 diamonds. It opens to reveal a basket of delicate, white flowers.

Frequently described as the most beautiful jewellery object in the world, the egg is depicted on two Finnish stamps in miniature sheet format issued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Finland's first stamp.

L'Œuf d'hiver, de Carl Fabergé, est considéré comme l'une de ses plus importantes créations artistiques. Il a été taillé dans du cristal de roche et saupoudré de plus de 3 000 diamants. Il s'ouvre pour dévoiler un panier de délicates fleurs blanches.

Souvent décrit comme le bijou le plus magnifique du monde, l'œuf paraît sur deux timbres finlandais en format de mini feuillet, émis pour célébrer le 150e anniversaire du premier timbre finlandais.



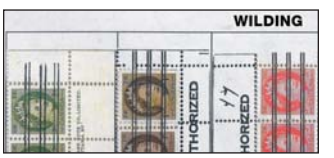
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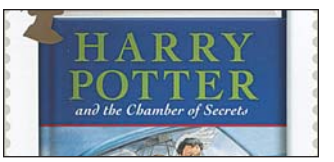
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EDITOR'S notes
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by / par Tony Shaman, FRPSC

It is probably true that only a small proportion of philatelists, perhaps 2 to 3 per cent, have a spouse or partner that also collects stamps. If this percentage is correct, it means that upwards of 97 per cent of individuals accompanying their significant others to a Royal convention have no interest in the dealer bourse, seminars, exhibits, and the many other stamp-related activities going on at a typical stamp show.

What, then, can convention organizers do to make this annual trek to a distant city, that for many members is half way or clear across the country, more appealing for these non-collector spouses? Equally important, what can organizers do to attract a greater number of society members to attend these conventions?

First of all, organizers must recognize that members of The Royal are more likely to attend a convention if they have the support of their spouses. This begs the question if more members would attend and bring along their significant others if the trip could be planned as part of a family outing. Past Royal conventions have frequently been held in areas of the country that in themselves are vacation destinations. To take advantage of the attractions that are readily available in the backyards of places where conventions are being held, all it would take is a little additional planning on the part of organizers.

Providing a list of local attractions in registration packages or on the society's Website that spouses can visit is not enough. Organizers must do more. They are in a much better position to plan and arrange visits to local attractions than out-of-town visitors who do not know the area.

Planned excursions need not be costly to arrange. Nor do they need to be to peerless destinations. For example, a walking tour of an historic part of town, or some other local attraction, guided by a knowledgeable individual could be hugely successful. Other possibilities are shopping excursions or a visit to a bistro or restaurant serving a local dish or some other unique fare.

Providing a designated area during the convention where significant others could meet and relax would be another plus. Admittedly, space at stamp shows is always at a premium but could not a small area, or a room somewhere, be made available where spouses could meet, chat, or just get to know one another in a relaxing atmosphere?

Il est sans doute vrai que peu de philatélistes, peut-être deux ou trois pour cent d'entre eux, ont une conjointe ou un conjoint qui collectionne aussi les timbres. Si ce pourcentage est exact, cela signifie que plus de 97 pour cent des personnes qui accompagnent leur douce moitié à un congrès de La Royale ne s'intéressent ni à la bourse aux timbres des négociants, ni aux séminaires, ni aux expositions, ni aux autres activités philatéliques qui se déroulent pendant une exposition typique.

Dès lors, que peuvent faire les organisateurs pour que le périple vers une ville lointaine qui, pour bien des membres, est à mi-chemin ou carrément à l'autre bout du pays, attire les conjoints non-collectionneurs? Tout aussi important, que peuvent faire les organisateurs pour inciter un nombre supérieur de membres à assister à ces congrès?

Premièrement, ils doivent reconnaître que davantage de membres de La Royale sont susceptibles d'assister à un congrès s'ils ont le soutien de leur conjoint. Ce qui amène la question suivante : et si le voyage devenait une sortie familiale? N'y aurait-il pas plus de membres qui viendraient avec leur famille? Par le passé, les congrès Royal ont souvent eu lieu dans des régions du pays qui sont en soi des destinations vacances. Pour que les congressistes profitent des attractions qui existent aux environs des lieux des congrès, il suffirait que les organisateurs améliorent un peu la planification.

Fournir une liste des attractions avec les documents d'inscription ou l'afficher dans le site Web de la société pour que les conjoints la consulte ne suffit pas. Les organisateurs doivent aller plus loin. Ils sont beaucoup mieux placés pour planifier et organiser des visites que les visiteurs qui viennent d'autres régions et ne connaissent pas les environs.

Les excursions organisées n'ont pas à être coûteuses ni incomparables. Par exemple, une visite à pied d'une partie historique de la ville ou d'autres endroits intéressants en compagnie d'un guide qui connaît les lieux pourrait s'avérer un succès. Il y a aussi le magasinage ou une sortie dans un café ou un restaurant où l'on sert une spécialité locale ou autre chose de particulier.

Fournir un endroit où les non-philatélistes pourraient se réunir et relaxer serait un autre avantage. Aux expositions philatélistes, il faut l'admettre, l'espace est toujours limité, mais ne pourrions-nous pas trouver une petite place ou un local quelque part où nos conjoints pourraient se rencontrer, bavarder ou simplement faire connaissance dans une atmosphère détendue?

Convention organizers could perhaps go a step further. Get-acquainted sessions or workshops focused on non-technical aspects of stamp collecting could be of interest and prove to be beneficial. Best of all, sessions such as these are comparatively easy to arrange.

It is a given that organizing committees of Royal conventions want to attract the largest possible number of members, and convincing their spouses or partners of the enjoyment to be had from attending a convention would go a long way in meeting that objective. For that reason, why would organizers not make it as compelling as possible for significant others to attend ROYAL/ROYALE conventions?

After some 110 years, the use of precancelled stamps in Canada has come to an end. The Post Office ceased issuing "precancels" with the Floral and Parliament stamps of 1979. Joseph Monteiro looks at Queen Elizabeth II-era precancelled postage stamps released between 1953 and 1979.

Postcards are "collectibles" in their own right but once they have gone through the mail they become an integral part of philately. Generally collected by philatelists as part of a postal history study, Dale Speirs looks at an aspect of postcards somewhat removed from what most collectors look for when assembling their collections. There is obviously more to these cards than meets the eye.

Millions of people, children and adults, around the globe have taken an aspirin tablet at some point in their life. It is a product that is known worldwide. But where did the name "Aspirin" come from? To find out, read the story of the so-called "wonder drug" by Michael Peach.

Another name recognized by millions of children and their parents is Harry Potter. But unlike Aspirin, which has been a pharmaceutical staple for over a century, Harry Potter became a worldwide phenomenon just in the last decade. Dick Logan relates his fascination with the "boy wizard," and his adventures at Hogwarts, and the stamps issued by Great Britain to commemorate this modern-day literary success story.

In the days when the dollar was king, even a half cent commanded respect. For a half cent one could send unaddressed circulars, newspapers and periodicals through the mail. But that bargain inevitably had to come to an end. George Arfken and Bill Pawluk look at the half-cent postal rate from its beginning with the half-cent Large Queen issue released in 1868.

As usual, we attempt to include something of interest for all our readers. If you have a special collecting area that you have not seen covered on these pages, I invite you to write it up and share it with your fellow readers. ✉

Les organisateurs des congrès pourraient aller de l'avant en prévoyant des séances de rencontre ou des ateliers sur des aspects non techniques de la philatélie. Ce qui pourrait être intéressant, profitable, et encore mieux, relativement facile à organiser.

De toute évidence, les comités organisateurs des congrès Royal veulent attirer le plus grand nombre de congressistes possible. Convaincre les conjointes ou conjoints qu'ils prendront plaisir à y assister serait des plus efficace à cet égard. C'est pourquoi les organisateurs devaient s'efforcer de rendre la participation à un congrès ROYAL-ROYALE irrésistible pour nos tendres moitiés.

Après quelque 110 années, l'utilisation de timbres préoblitérés au Canada a pris fin. Postes Canada a cessé d'en émettre avec les timbres floraux et ceux du parlement, de 1979. Joseph Monteiro examine ceux de la reine Élizabeth II, émis entre 1953 et 1979.

Les cartes postales en tant que telles peuvent faire l'objet d'une collection, mais une fois qu'elles ont circulé par la poste, elles deviennent partie intégrante de la philatélie. Les philatélistes les collectionnent généralement pour les inclure à une étude d'histoire postale, mais Dale Speirs s'intéresse à un aspect un peu différent de celui qui inspire la plupart des collectionneurs. Ces cartes ont plus à nous apprendre que ce qui paraît simplement à l'œil.

Dans le monde, des millions de personnes, enfants autant qu'adultes, ont pris de l'aspirine à un moment ou à un autre de leur vie. L'aspirine est connue partout dans le monde. Mais d'où tient-elle son nom? Pour le savoir, lisez l'article de Micheal Peach sur la « panacée » (The Wonder Drug).

Un autre nom, aussi connu de millions d'enfants et de parents, est Harry Potter. Mais, contrairement à Aspirin, un produit qui a pris une place essentielle en pharmacie depuis plus d'un siècle, Harry Potter est devenu un phénomène mondial seulement au cours des dix dernières années. Dick Logan parle de sa fascination pour le « jeune magicien » de ses aventures à Hogwarts et des timbres que la Grande-Bretagne a émis en hommage à ce succès littéraire moderne.

Aux beaux jours du dollar, même un demi-cent commandait le respect. Pour un demi-cent, il était possible de poster des circulaires, des journaux et des périodiques non adressés. Mais, la situation devait inévitablement prendre fin. George Arfken et Bill Pawluck s'intéressent au tarif postal d'un demi-cent, depuis le début avec l'émission grande reine à un demi-cent en 1868.

Comme toujours, nous essayons de parler de sujets qui vous intéresseront. Si un domaine de collection qui vous intéresse particulièrement n'a pas été traité dans nos pages, je vous invite à rédiger un article dont profiteront les autres lecteurs. ✉

The End of Canada's Half-Cent Stamps

George B. Arfken, FRPSC and William S. Pawluk

Canada started issuing half-cent stamps in 1868 with the half-cent Large Queen. In the late Victorian period, there were two rates that called for half cent stamps: (1) unaddressed circulars and (2) newspapers and periodicals not over 1 ounce [1].



Figure 1. A block of 4 half-cent Maple Leaves.

Unaddressed circulars. "Unaddressed circulars, handbills, &c. .... may, when not exceeding two ounces in weight, be posted for local letter box distribution at a rate of ½¢ each, to be prepaid by postage stamp." [2]. *1897 Official Postal Guide* p. xiii



Figure 2. A half-cent Maple Leaf paid the unaddressed circular (householder) rate on a printed Happy New Year card from the Canadian Asbestos Company, Montreal. The stamp was cancelled with a Montreal flag, Type 7 without dater hub. The back of this card is shown in Figure 3.

This half-cent rate was no longer listed in the *1902 Official Postal Guide*. The 1903 Guide gave the rate for this material as 1 cent per 2 oz. The second half-cent rate, newspapers and periodicals not over 1 oz., survived for several more years.

Newspapers and Periodicals. "Single numbers weighing not more than one ounce each, prepaid." *1898 Official Postal Guide* p. xi

In 1902 this half-cent newspaper/periodical rate was reclassified as 2nd class. The rate continued until May 19, 1909, when it was repealed and newspapers and periodicals were placed in the one cent per one ounce rate group

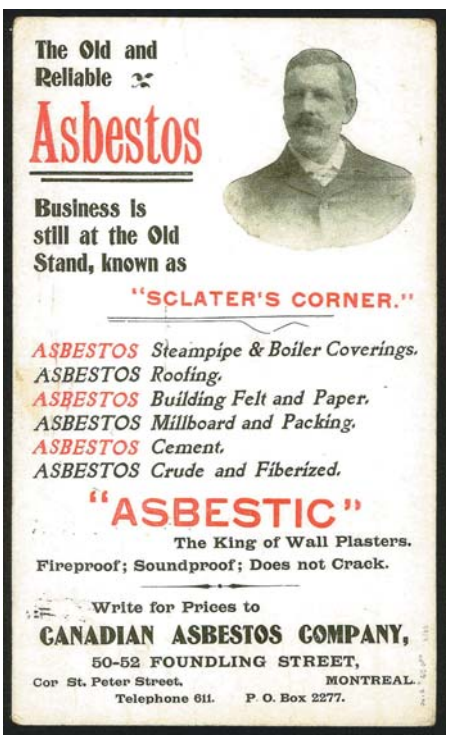


Figure 3. This is the back of the card of Figure 2, an advertisement for asbestos. We now know that asbestos is a dangerous carcinogen but a century ago asbestos was accepted as an excellent insulator.



Figure 4. A small newspaper or periodical sent to the Toronto Silver Plate Co., Toronto. The wrapper was franked with a half-cent Numeral. There is a FE 27 1900 backstamp.



Figure 5. An unsealed envelope (containing printed matter) from Trois Rivières, January 20, 1898, addressed to Helsingfors, Finland. Helsinki 4 11 98 backstamp. The four half-cent Maple Leaves paid for up to 4 oz. of printed matter at 1 cent per 2 ounces.
Courtesy of Charles A. Jacobson.

We could add a third (optional) rate: (3) helping make up higher rates. Many Canadians were very fond of their half-cent stamps and used them when they were not required. Figure 5 shows an example. The four half-cent Maple Leaves paid the 2 cents that could have been paid with a 2-cent stamp.

The End of Canada's Half Cent Stamps. The July 1909 Quarterly Supplement stated:

... the one-half cent stamps will no longer be required, and the Department will cease to issue them as soon as the supply now on hand has been exhausted.

Half-cent rates had been phased out. There were no half-cent Edwards or half-cent Admirals. There was a half-cent Quebec Tercentenary but the half-cent Numeral was Canada's last half-cent definitive stamp. While half-cent stamps were no longer being printed, the available half-cent stamps could still be used to make up higher rates such as the nine-cent



Figure 6. A registered, double rate cover from Toronto, December 27, 1909, addressed to London, England. The required 9 cents was paid with 18 half cent Numerals. Courtesy of Longley Auctions.

rate for the cover of Figure 6. The letter rate in this case was the Imperial Penny Postage 2 cents per ounce. For this overweight cover, the postage was 4 cents. The registration was 5 cents, a total of 9 cents. ✉

References

[1] **This article has been adapted from *A Canadian Postal History, 1897 - 1911*, George B. Arfken, FRPSC and William S. Pawluk.**

[2] **This 1897 reference and other Post Office documents from1900 or earlier are available at www.collectionscanada.ca**

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ASPIRIN

The Wonder Drug

Dr. Michael E. Peach

Aspirin, a drug of the salicylate group, has been called a "wonder drug". It is readily available and has been used for many years for the relief of aches and pain, and more recently also as an antiplatelet for thinning blood. It was the first non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug to be discovered. Hippocrates, a Greek physician and the father of modern medicine, shown on the 1979 Greek stamp with the Hippocratic oath as the background (Figure 1), described it in the 5th century B.C. as a bitter powder extracted from willow bark that could ease aches and pains and reduce fevers. This was subsequently shown to be salicylic acid. In 1839 German researchers isolated salicylic acid from the herb meadowsweet, formerly classified as Spiraea ulmaria. In 1853 the French chemist Charles Frederic Gerhardt (Figure 2) was the first person to synthesise aspirin, acetyl salicylic acid. It was subsequently prepared by several chemists. In 1897 Felix Hoffmann (Figure 3) a chemist at Friedrich Bayer & Co., and this was claimed by Bayer to be the first synthesis of a pure and stable aspirin. It was first marketed by Bayer in Germany in 1899. The German patent office however, rejected Bayer's attempt to patent acetyl salicylic acid. Yet the name Aspirin is a Bayer trademark in several countries. In countries where Aspirin is still considered a trademark, such as Canada, the generic name ASA (Acetyl Salicylic Acid) is used. None of the 19th century chemists involved in the development of aspirin have been honoured by the issue of a stamp.

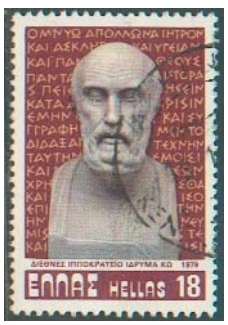


Fig 1. Hippocrates.

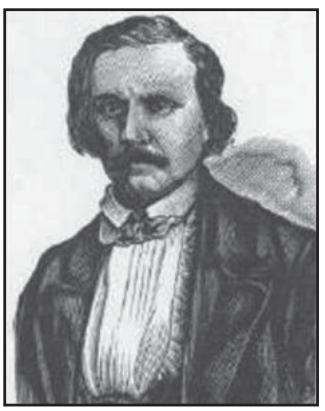


Fig 2. Charles Frederic Gerhardt.



Fig 3. Felix Hoffmann.

Aspirin is a very simple organic compound, having a chemical formula C9H8O4. A model of its structure is shown on the 1990 Berlin stamp (Figure 4), issued to mark the centenary of the German Pharmaceutical Society. It is readily prepared and its synthesis is often the subject of an experiment in first



Fig 4. Structure of aspirin.





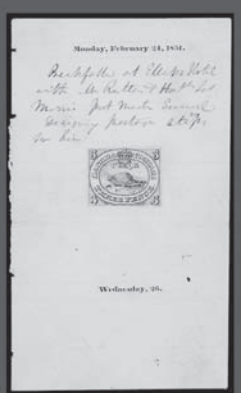
RIGHT: Fig 5.Uruguay – Centenary of the Hoffmann preparation of aspirin.

LEFT: Fig 6. Gabon - Centenary of the Hoffmann preparation of aspirin.

year university laboratory classes. The name Aspirin originated from a- (for the acetyl group) –spir- (from the plant genus Spiraea) and –in (a common ending for drugs at the time). Alternatively As- refers to AcetylSalicylic, –pir- to Raffaele Piria, one of the scientists able to isolate it as crystals, and –in as the usual ending for drugs. Old aspirin tablets sometimes smell of vinegar, which has been formed by the slow reaction of aspirin with the moisture in the air forming acetic acid (vinegar) and salicylic acid, which is still an effective drug. It is also interesting to note that oil of wintergreen, methyl salicylate, is another derivative of salicylic acid.

Stamps were issued to mark the centenary of the Hoffmann preparation of aspirin by Uruguay in 1997 (Figure 5) and by Gabon in 1999 (Figure 6). ✉

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Secret Messages on Postcards

Part One

By Dale Speirs

Introduction.

As anyone knows who collects postal history, often the greatest interest is not the stamp or postmark, but the letter inside or the message on the postcard. Postcards have been valued from the beginning for their cheapness and convenience, but do have the disadvantage that any passing eye can read the message. Not a problem if all one is writing is "Having a wonderful time. Wish you were here." But it is annoying if you desire a modicum of privacy for a missive of greater importance. With the advent of postal cards, first used by Austria in 1869, Britain in 1870, Canada in 1871, the USA in 1873, and around the world thereafter in succeeding years, it did not take long for people to figure out various hacks. The most apparent was encrypting postal card messages. Some people wrote their messages in foreign languages and trusted that the posties couldn't read it. When Britain introduced postal cards in 1870, the Bishop of Gloucester was a great user of them to contact his clergy, but he wrote all his messages to them in Latin.[1] However, one never knows how many posties might be failed clerics with a bit of Latin. Ciphers are the obvious answer. Assorted coded postal cards are known in the philatelic hobby, most from the Golden Age of postcards in the early 1900s, and postal historians have fun trying to decipher them.[2, 3, 4, 5] Telegrams had long been coded, so it was an easy step to apply encryption to postal cards using well-known methods.

One famous coded postcard was sent blank, in all seriousness, during World War One.[6] Sir Henry Jones received the postcard addressed to him at 184 King's Road, Tighnabruaich, Scotland. He knew it was from his son who had recently been captured by the Turks in that theatre of the war. Tighnabruaich was a tiny village where mail was simply addressed to an individual because there was no delivery service, and in any event everyone knew everybody else. Sir Henry knew the postcard was some type of code because there was no King's Road in the village, and no street long enough to have a house number as high as 184. Unable to figure it out, he took the postcard to the British government code readers to see if they could break it. As it happened, the codebreaker he spoke with had been a vicar in civilian life, and immediately turned to the *Bible* at First Kings, chapter 18, verse 4. "Obadiah took a hundred prophets, and hid them fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water." The codebreaker interpreted this as meaning Sir Henry's son was safe with prisoners but needed food. This interpretation was subsequently verified as correct.

An 1870 editorial in *The Times* of London commented on the subject: "Then that instinct of economy which animates every Briton in dealing with a revenue question will suggest countless expedients for making open post cards available beyond the limits on which the [Post Office] Department has reckoned. Cryptography, or the art of writing in cipher, will be practised, new methods of expression will be studied, and many persons, no doubt, will discover that what they have got to say to their correspondents need be no secret after all."[7] An editorial at the same time in the *Illustrated London News* came to the same conclusion: "I suppose that various ciphers will be invented or adopted, and that a great deal more trouble will be taken by many people than would have been caused by writing a letter in the regular way." [8]

Code Breaking.

In assessing whether a postal card has an encrypted message, a distinction must be made between a secret cipher and non-secret ciphers. Of the latter, the most common examples are in shorthand (Figure 1). Shorthand is not a secret cipher since anyone with a handbook or training can read it. Postal cards with shorthand messages may have been sent on the grounds that few posties know it and it is easier than drawing up a table of substituted letters. Some are sent for fun of course. In 1880,



Figure 1: This postcard was written in shorthand, which is not a secret code.

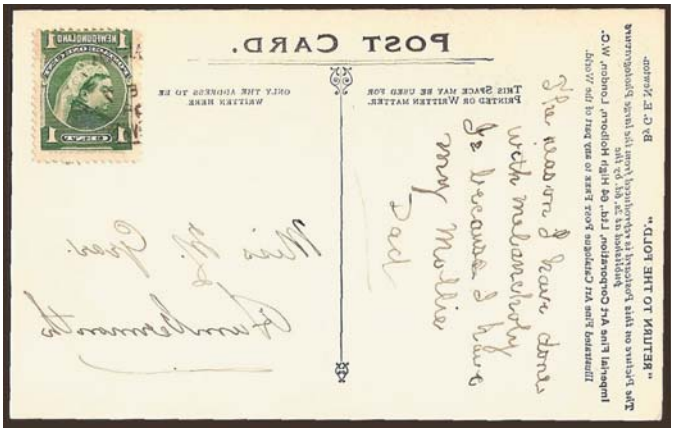


Figure 2a: Mirror writing on a postcard used in England circa early 1900s.

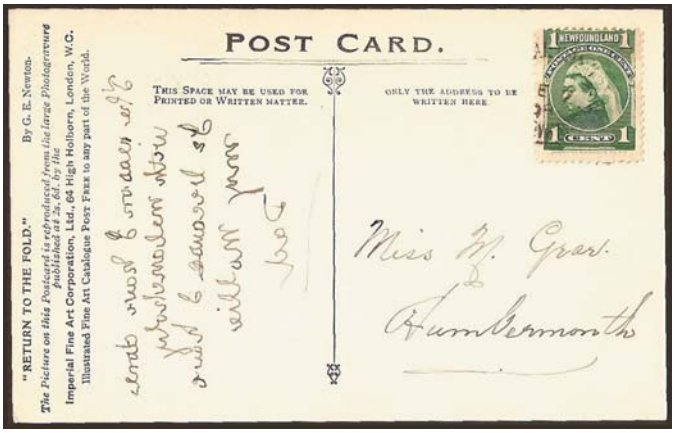


Figure 2b: Flipped scan of postcard to show mirror image message.

the Rhenish and Westphalian Stenographic Society (Germany) exhibited a postcard with 33,000 words of text on it in shorthand.[9]

If the code is too simplistic, anyone can read it. Mirror writing is known on postcards, for example[10], but a reasonably intelligent postmaster or family member can spot it and hold it up to a mirror (Figure 2). Too complicated and the recipient may give up or transcribe errors, and for that matter, so may the sender. The usual type of coded message is therefore a substitution cipher, where each letter is substituted by a different letter or symbol, such as A = 1, B = 2, etcetera. This is known as mono-alphabetic substitution. More complicated methods exist such as poly-alphabetic substitution, additives, and bigrams, but they would be too much trouble and require too much expertise for an average postcard writer. It may be safely assumed that most, if not all, substitution code messages on postcards are mono-alphabetic.

Substitution Ciphers: General Remarks.

So how to break a coded message on a postcard? The postcard code usually found is the mono-alphabetic substitution cipher. This type of cipher is the easiest to break, using frequency analysis and cribbing. This was well known even as Britain was issuing its first postal card in 1870, although editorialists misunderstood the methodology by which it would be done. Postal card users were cautioned in an 1870 editorial in the British magazine *Chamber's Journal* that mono-alphabetic ciphers would be easy to break by frequency analysis.[11]

This is incorrect for reasons explained below; the actual method of breaking postcard ciphers is cribbing.

Frequency analysis depends on the fact that every language has certain letters that occur more often than others. In English, the most common letters used in a large piece of text are e, t, a, o, i, n, s, h, and r, in that order. English has letter combinations such as '-ing', '-ed', or 'the' that occur often even in a short text.[12] The most common letter pairs are, in descending order, TH, HE, IN, ER, RE, ON, AN, EN, AT, ES, ED, TE, TI, OR, ST, AR, ND, TO, and NT. The most frequent 3-letter blocks are, in descending order, THE, AND, TIO, ATI, FOR, THA, TER, RES, ERE, CON, TED, and COM. This method works best for large pieces of text because frequencies may fluctuate in short texts.[13] For postcards, too many symbols have similar frequencies in the short text, so this method is not as successful. However, if one has several postcards from the same correspondence, using the same coding, they could be combined to produce a longer text.

The favoured method of code breaking encrypted postcards that I use is cribbing. In every language, certain words appear frequently, separately or in combination. No matter how well the message has been encrypted, these combinations shine through, and a cryptographer can guess the letter combinations. Many messages begin with stereotyped phrases such as the date, the location from or to, or stock phrases such as "Dear Sir".[14] On a coded postcard, I look at the heading for "Dear" or the month, and the first few words of text are often "See you", "I am", "Arrived here", or other stock phrases. One handy aid for cribbing is a word finder dictionary[15] which lists three and four letter words by letter and empty space combinations. For example, _ _ L L _ would be listed and suggest the word "hello".

There are only two single-letter words in English, so one looks for the personal "I" and the article "a". Two-letter words are usually "is", "am", "in", or "it". Three-letter words are usually "and", "the", "got", or "had", because postcard writers normally write in the past tense. In my experience, it is best to try and guess the consonants first, because the vowels then suggest themselves, whereas the opposite isn't as efficient.

Substitution Ciphers: The Pigpen Cipher And Miss Jennie of Markerville.

A substitution cipher familiar to our grandparents' generation was the pigpen cipher, or as less commonly known, the Freemasons cipher.[16] The basic structure of the pigpen cipher is shown in Figure 3. This type of cipher dates back centuries; one reference I have seen it in is dated 1655 from London, England.[17] Instead of substituting letters, it substitutes symbols for the letters of the words. Even today it is difficult to type these symbols, so the cipher is handwritten.

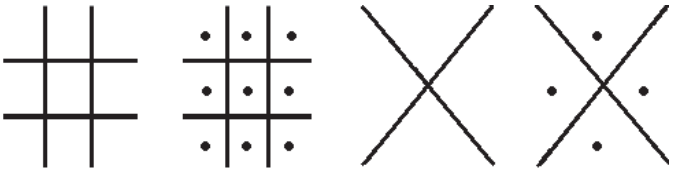


Figure 3: The basic form of the pigpen code.

An interesting research project of mine was a postcard sent from Evarts to Markerville, both in rural central Alberta, Canada. (As an aside, my great-grandfather August Koski was the first person to carry the mails to Evarts.) The postcard has a nice Evarts postmark dated September 20, 1911, but is badly waterstained along one side. What makes it worth saving is that it has a message written in pigpen cipher. The postcard is shown in Figure 4.

Why was it sent in cipher in the first place? It seems fairly obvious that the sender and recipient desired privacy. Then as now, Evarts and Markerville are small villages, the type of place where everybody knows everybody else. The postcard is addressed to Miss Jennie Stephenson. When I first examined it, it seemed probable that someone was courting her or the sender was a close friend. By coding it, the postmasters at either end, and the paterfamilias at the receiving end, would not be able to pry into Jennie's business.

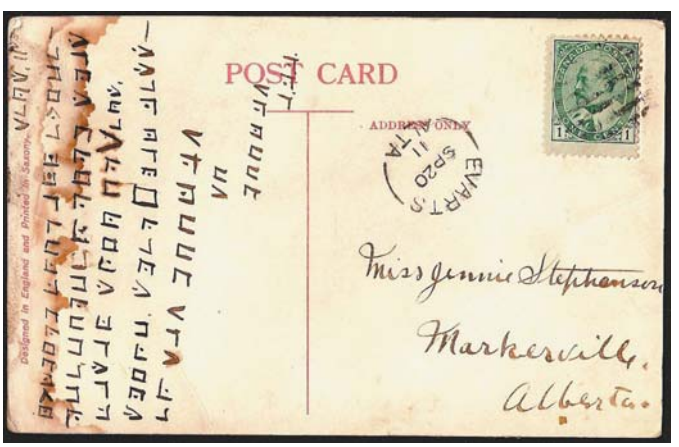


Figure 4: Miss Jennie postcard with pigpen code.

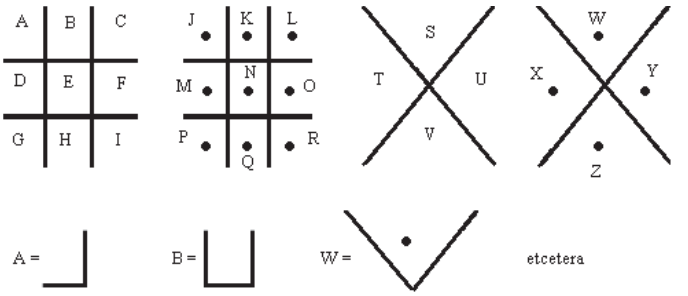


Figure 5: Pigpen code with straightforward substitution.

Using the Figure 5 cipher, a straightforward substitution on Miss Jennie's postcard yielded gibberish. The first line of text would read: NTKDEPD LRHG AOO CXEBC. Obviously then, the pigpen cipher used had the letters scrambled. There was one other possibility. Markerville was an Icelandic settlement, and that was the primary language there. Miss Jennie had a very common Icelandic surname. However, one doesn't have to be fluent in Icelandic to guess that NTKDEPD is not a word in that or any other language.

It was cribbing that gave me a beginning in cracking the cipher. The sender had dated the letter and the obvious translation was 'Sept 11th'. This gave me the letters s, e, p, t, and h, arranged as shown in Figure 6 on the pigpen cipher matrix. After that, it got more troublesome, so I set up a spreadsheet to help me run through the permutations faster. Along the top, I set up a blank pigpen cipher. Below it, I typed the message with each cell beneath it representing that symbol. I tied the blank cell to its symbol on the blank pigpen. Then all I had to do was insert letters under the blank pigpens and the spreadsheet would automatically fill in the appropriate cells below the message. If it wasn't the correct letter, then I backspaced out the letter and tried another. No more scribbling on endless sheets of paper trying to make it fit. If only Miss Jennie and the postcard sender could have seen me trying to crack their message on a laptop computer! I wasn't able to get a complete translation of the cipher, but I got enough to get a general idea of the message. My best effort is shown in Figure 7 (the cipher used by the postcard sender) and Figure 8 (the decrypted message).

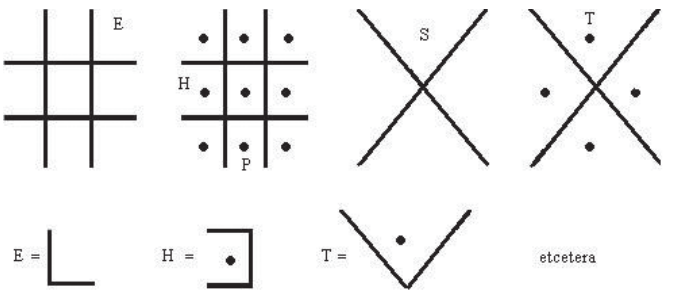


Figure 6: Initial crib of Miss Jennie pigpen code.

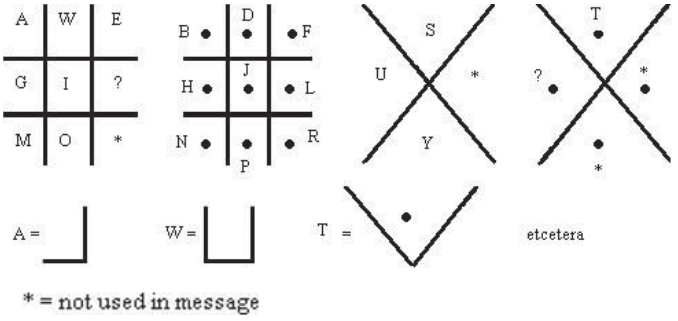


Figure 7: Decrypted Miss Jennie code.

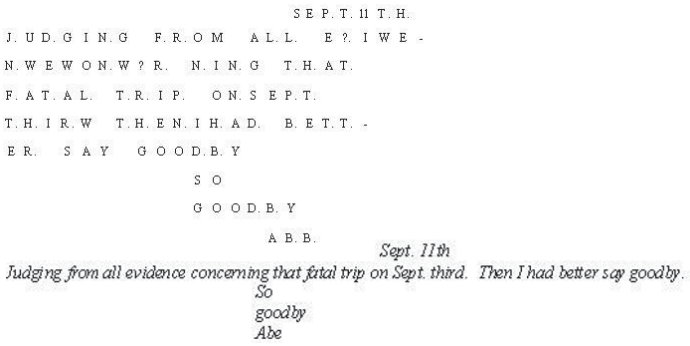


Figure 8: The decrypted Miss Jennie message. At top is the literal decrypt, with a polished transcription below it. The writer was not good at the pigpen code, and in particular confused D and W in his text.

The sender made some typos, conflated letters with different words, and hyphenated words due to lack of space at the edge of the postcard. I corrected them the best I could. For example, the raw decrypt had "e?i when", which appeared to better read as "evidence". It seems that the sender mixed up D and W, which are the same symbol except that D had a dot in the symbol. Like most codebreakers, I had to do some guessing and ignore some parts of the mechanical translation where it was obvious the sender couldn't read his own cipher. The abrupt discontinuity between the two sentences suggests to me that the sender may have intended to write more but was interrupted in the middle of his message and forgot his place when he went back to finish it. I'm also making a hunch that the sender's name was Abe, not Abb. Rereading the decrypted message, I am left wondering if this was a breakup, a final goodbye between lovers or friends. But they are all dead now, and only this small piece of postal history remains to record their fleeting shadows upon the stage of life. ✉

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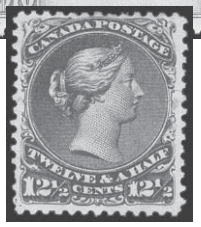
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PRECANCELLED CANADIAN STAMPS:

Queen Elizabeth II Era — Part One

By Joseph Monteiro

I - Introduction

From time to time precancelled Canadian stamps have caught the fancy of Canadian philatelist. At one time they were listed in the major catalogues although these same catalogues later de-listed them. Recently, a number of auctions have offered precancelled stamps for sale which may reflect a revival of collector interest in this area of philately, particularly for the earlier period.

The purpose of this article is to review precancelled Queen Elizabeth II-era stamps issued between 1953 and 1979. After 1979 the Canadian Post Office ceased issuing precancelled stamps.

The types of warning messages used on these stamps, and how their use evolved over time together with the plates on which they were issued in the 1953 to 1979 period, will be examined. Precancelled stamps of both the sheet variety and the coil variety will also be reviewed together with their paper fluorescence. Finally, a few varieties that have been noted form time to time will be briefly mentioned.

II - The Karsh Definitives

The Karsh definitives were the first precancelled stamps of the Queen Elizabeth II period. They were issued in both sheet and coil format. In sheet format, the 2-cent, 3-cent, 4-cent and 5-cent stamps were precancelled. In the coil format, only the 2-cent denomination was precancelled. The sheet stamps went on sale on May 1, 1953 and the coil stamps on July 30, 1953. While the perforations on the sheet stamps are 12x12 the perforation on the coil stamps are 9½ vertical. These non-tagged stamps were all printed by Canadian Bank Note Company Limited on plain non-fluorescent paper. The colour of the above stamps are green, carmine rose, violet, and ultramarine respectively.

The precancelled lines are in black ink and consist of three sets of two lines. The sets of lines are 4.5mm apart and the two lines are 1mm apart. Only one stamp sheet, the 4-cent value in the series was printed with marginal inscriptions. The warning inscription reads as follows: "WARNING! - TO BE USED ONLY AS SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED."

This inscription appears with a period after "AUTHORIZED." The overall length of the inscription with the period measures 6⅝" from the "W" of "WARNING" to the "D" of "AUTHORIZED".[1] The warning inscriptions appear on panes from plates 5 and 6 with the marginal inscription at the top right.

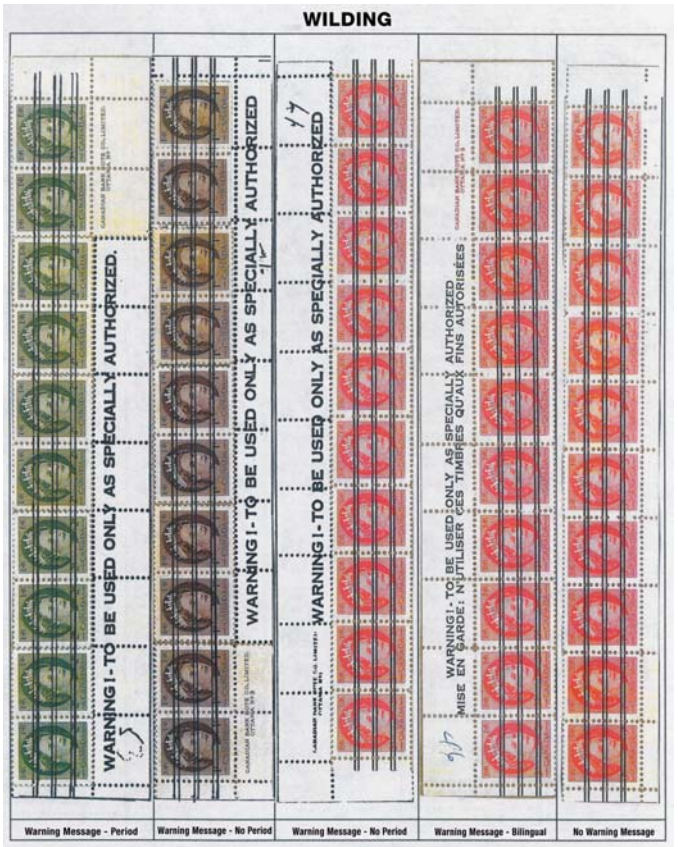
Besides the above precancelled stamps issued by the Canada Post, a few of these stamps (4 cents and 5 cents) in sheet format were cancelled by specific cities or towns. These stamps appear with precancelled numbers: '0700'; '1050' and '4530' in between two sets of precancelled lines. The numbers represent the cities/towns: Montreal, Quebec and Toronto. These stamps appear on panes without any marginal inscriptions.

The 2-cent precancelled coil stamps have a starter and an ending strip of nine or ten gummed segments. The first segment of the starter is smaller than the rest. The remaining nine gummed segments are 20mm to 21mm approximating the horizontal size of the stamps, that is, 21mm.

The gummed starter segments on the 2-cent precancelled strip is green on both front and back. The precancelled lines are printed with red ink and consist of three sets of two lines. Generally, the first segment is overprinted in ink with the marking "2ct. Precancelled." The latter in two vertical lines in bluish-purple ink. The ending strips consists of 10 perforated white gummed segments similar to the starter except that the last segment is smaller than the rest.

III - The Wilding Definitives

Stamps issued during the Wilding period, witnessed the use of three types of warning messages. The first was a continuation of the message used during the Karsh period; the second was a minor change in the message; and a third was a message in bilingual format.



Denominations of the 1-cent, 2-cent, 3-cent, 4-cent and 5-cent precancelled stamps were printed in sheet format and the 2-cent precancelled stamp was printed in coil format. Sheet stamps were sold in 1954 and the coil stamps on September 9, 1954. While the perforation on the sheet stamps are 12x12, the perforation on the coils are 9½ (vertical). All these non-tagged stamps were printed by Canadian Bank Note Company Limited on plain non-fluorescent paper. The colour of the above stamps are violet brown, green, carmine rose, violet and bright blue, respectively.

Precancelled lines are in black colour and consist of three sets of two lines. The sets of lines are 4.5mm apart and the two lines are 1mm apart. The warning inscription of the precancelled stamps reads: "WARNING! - TO BE USED ONLY AS SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED".

Two types of marginal inscriptions in English appear: one with a 'period' after "AUTHORIZED" and the other without the period. The overall length of the inscription with the period measures 6⅝" from the "W" of "WARNING" to the "D" of "AUTHORIZED"; the inscription without the period measures 6¼".[1] The warning message spreads over the selvedge of

Table XXI - A5 - QUEEN ELIZABETH II --Wilding Portrait (1954) Precancelled with Plate Inscriptions

Value	Plate	Inscription	No.	Period after Authorized	No. Period after Authorized	Bilingual
1c	6	LR	X-337	X		
1c	8	LL	X-337		X	
2c	2	LL	X-338	X		
2c	4, 5	LR	X-338	X		
2c	4, 5	UL	X-338	X(?)		
2c	6	UR	X-338		X	
2c	7, 8	LR, LL	X-338	X(?)		
2c	7, 8	UL	X-338	X	X	
2c	9	UL	X-338		X(?)	
2c	No		X-338		X	
3c	1	LL	X-339		X	
3c	1, 2	UL	X-339		X	
3c	1, 2	UR	X-339		X	X

Sources: Toop, E. R., and Reiche, Hans, "Warning Inscription Varieties on Canada Precancel Sheets," **The Canadian Philatelist**, March-April 1993, Volume 44, No. 2, p. 140; and Reiche, Hans, "Warning Inscriptions on Canada Precancelled Sheets - New Plates Reported," **The Canadian Philatelist**, Volume 45, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1994, pp. 56-57. **Robert A Lee Auctions**, Public Auction - Sale 102, September 28, 29, 2001, p. 77.

The reason why three types of warning inscriptions are found is not surprising. Initially the Post Office printed a unilingual version with a period, then a unilingual version without a period and finally a bilingual version without periods. The first was used in the Karsh period and carried over thereafter into the Wilding period. The third type was used toward the end of the Wilding period and subsequently continued into the Cameo period and the Centennial period. From this it can be concluded that if stamps of the same value have both the first and second types, the later was done at a later date. The same conclusion can be drawn with regard to the unilingual and bilingual versions.

Table XXI - A4 - QUEEN ELIZABETH II -- Wilding Portrait (1954) (Precancelled)

Value	Sheet Variety Perf 12 x 12 1954	Coils Perf 9 1/2 (V) Sept. 9, 1954
Plain Paper (NT)	**Plain Paper (NT)**	
1c Violet Brown	PC (HRF*, HRB*, VRB* / #, N R*)	
2c Green	PC (HRF*, HRB*, VRB* / #, N R*)	PC- CO (VRF*, VRB* / +)
3c Carmine Rose	PC (HRF*, HRB* /)	
4c Violet	PC	
5c Bright Blue	PC (HRF*, HRB*, VRB* / #)	

PC=Precancelled. CO=Coil. Perf=Perforation. V=Vertical. NT=Non Tagged. HRF=Horizontal Ribbed Front. HRB=Horizontal Ribbed Back. VRF=Vertical Ribbed Front. VRF=Vertical Ribbed Back. *=Non Fluorescence. /=Very low fluorescence. #=Low Fluorescence. +=Medium fluorescence.

eight stamps but does not appear on the four stamps where the plate inscription is printed. The warning message appears on panes with marginal inscriptions at the top or bottom.

In addition to the two types of English inscriptions, the sheets of 3-cent denominations also appear with a bilingual text. The French warning inscription appears below the English inscription reads: "MISE EN GARDE: N'UTILISER CES TIMBRES QU'AUX FINS AUTORISÉES".

The bilingual inscription measures 5 23/32" in length. The warning message spreads over the selvedge of seven stamps but does not appear on the four stamps where the plate inscription is printed or on the first or last stamps in the pane. The warning message appears on panes with margin inscriptions at the top or bottom. The known panes with margin inscriptions are shown in Table A5.

From the use of the three types of warning messages, one can conclude that if stamps of the same value have both the first and second types, the later was printed at a later date. The same conclusion can be drawn regarding the unilingual and bilingual versions. The types of warning message also provide some idea as to the dating when certain plates with the message were printed.

For example, it would be safe to conclude that the 1-cent - plate 6 and the 2-cents - plate 2, plate 4, plate 5, plate 7 and plate 8 with Type I message were printed before the values showing other warning messages. Precancelled stamps were printed on various types of paper such as horizontal/vertical/non-ribbed, and with varying degrees of fluorescence (see Table A4).

The 2-cent precancelled coil stamp has a starter and an ending strip of nine or 10 gummed segments. The details of these are the same as those provided for the precancelled Karsh 2-cent denomination.

IV - The Cameo Definitives

Stamps issued during the Cameo period continued with the warning message in bilingual format used on the Wilding stamps in the last period. However, this message was no longer issued on the horizontal selvedge but restricted to the vertical selvedge. The 1-cent, 2-cent, 3-cent, 4-cent and 5-cent precancelled stamps were printed in sheet format and the 2-cent and 3-cent values were printed in coil format. While the perforations on the sheet stamps are 12x12, the perforations on the coil stamps are 9½" vertical. The precancelled sheet stamps were sold in 1963 and the precancelled coil stamps on May 2, 1963. These non-tagged stamps were all printed by Canadian Bank Note Company Limited on plain non-fluorescent paper.

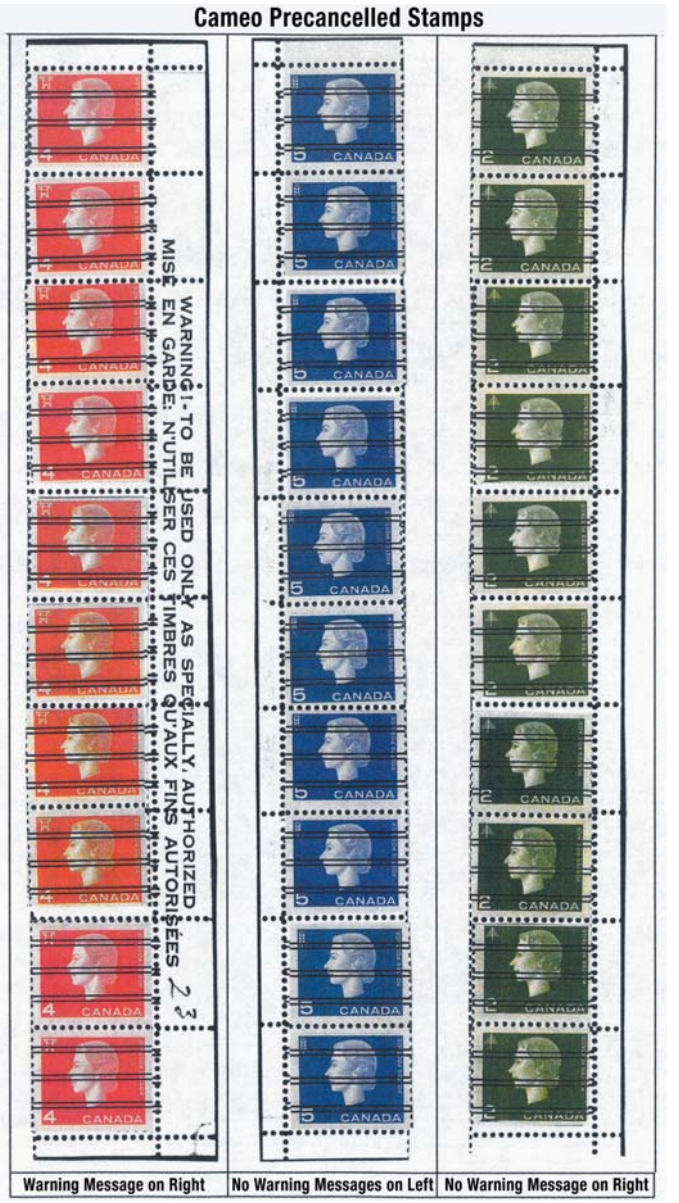


The bilingual warning inscription shows the English inscription above the French. It reads: "WARNING! TO BE USED ONLY AS SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED" followed by: "MISE EN GARDE: N'UTILISER CES TIMBRES QU'AUX FINS AUTORISÉES".

The English inscription measures 4.75 inches and the French inscription measures 5.625 inches in length. Both are centred. The English warning message spreads over the selvedge of six stamps; the French over eight stamps. The warning message appears on panes without any margin inscriptions. The reason for this is because these stamps were printed in sheet format of six panes (2 columns and 3 rows) and the selvedge between each column and row was 7.5mm, not wide enough to print the warning message twice (once for the right pane and once for the left pane). This left the printer with little choice. As a result, CBN only printed the warning message on the outer sides on the selvedge of the entire sheet. Only one message appears per pane, either on the right or left selvedge. It reads bottom to top on the left selvedge and top to bottom on the right selvedge.

The precancelled 2-cent and 3-cent stamps have starter and ending strips consisting of 10 perforated gummed segments. The first segment is smaller than the rest, about 15mm. The remaining nine gummed segments are 20mm to 21mm to approximate the horizontal size of the stamps, 21mm. It is possible that there may be exceptions to the above description.

Gummed segments on the 2c precancelled starter are green-blue and yellow on the 3c starter. The second segment on the former is printed horizontally with '2ct.' in purple and the second segment on the latter is printed horizontally with '3ct.' in purple with 'PRECANCELLED' printed beneath both. The precancelled lines on the starter segments are in red colour and consist of three sets of two lines. The ending strips consist of 10 perforated white, gummed segments similar to the starter except that the last segment is smaller than the rest. The size of these segments could be larger than the stamp. ✉



Part two of Precancelled Canadian Stamps: Queen Elizabeeth II Era will be found in the May/June 2008 issue of The Canadian Philatelist.

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Nomination of Directors

The following members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada have been nominated to serve as Directors for a two-year period, from 2007 to 2009. Nominees are listed in alphabetical order. In compliance with the by-laws of the Society, short biographies of the nominees are included. A proxy form is included in this issue for the use of those unable to attend the Annual General Meeting.



PETER BUTLER • *Toronto, ON*

At the Sainte Foy ROYALE in May, I will be seeking my third term as a Director of The RPSC. I hope that I can count on your vote, thus allowing me to continue my work on behalf of the members and chapters of our organization, as Secretary of the Society and Director of the National Office.

Among the pleasures within the hobby over the past four years are the many opportunities I have taken to attend a variety of regional and national shows, to visit many clubs, to talk with their members about stamp collecting and exhibiting and to listen to our members explaining what they want from their Society. I have used these experiences to influence RPSC policy and to create changes to Society procedures to improve our organization. I have also used the knowledge gained to write about the grassroots of the hobby in my column in *Canadian Stamp News*. It has been very gratifying to hear from so many individuals and clubs about the excitement generated by their programs and the accomplishments that are being made at the local level, to find new members, to improve communications and to help the hobby thrive and grow. Continuing my involvement as an RPSC Director is the best way I know to serve the hobby and to be an active part of our organization's growth and development.

My personal stamp collecting activities are enhanced by the club meetings I attend with the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, the North Toronto Stamp Club and the Scarborough Stamp Club. I also belong to the Scandinavian Collectors Club, and I am a member of BNAPS, PHSC, APS and ATA. I collect stamps from far too many countries and spend time developing far too many thematic collections, and I love it all! And in my spare time I devote my energies, as President of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance, to leading this motley crew of 12 clubs, to gain so much more enjoyment than we did in isolation. "*We work best when we work together.*" (GTAPA creed)



PETER KRITZ • *Hanover, ON*

Peter's collecting interest started when he was 6 when his mom started saving stamps for him. He found a few other kids at school doing the same and has been an active collector since, although like many putting away the hobby at times for school, career and family priorities.

Peter is the current president of the Saugeen Stamp Club in Hanover and was co-chair of Royal 2003 Royale. Peter has exhibited at a national level several times and his collecting interests include Canadian Revenues, Canadian Postal History during the '50s, Postal Issues of Canada 1950s, Grey Bruce postal history, and Canadian Christmas Seals. Peter is a member of The RPSC, APS, BNAPS, Postal History Society of Canada, Elizabethan Study Group, George VI Study Group and Grey Bruce Dufferin Simcoe Postal History Study Group. Peter was recently appointed Chair of SIP (Stakeholders in Philately) and has a keen interest in promoting our hobby.

Professionally, Peter is currently employed in Sales Management with Coldwell Banker in Kitchener, Ontario and has a background in financial services and financial planning.



KENNETH H. MAGEE, FRPSC • *Clinton, ON*

Ken Magee is seeking re-election as a Director of The RPSC. He retired from active teaching in 1996, after more than 31 years in elementary schools.

Ken has collected stamps since he was six. He continues to collect stamps from the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Ireland, some smaller British colonies, and Canada. He has exhibited different sections from each of these collections at various levels. He is slowly accumulating material for a display exhibit on polar bears; and for a Canadian air mail rates exhibit. He has recently exhibited the Irish Gerl definitive series and Dead Countries of Africa nationally. His eight frame international exhibit, Ireland, The Victorian Era, 1840-1901, is currently in competition in Israel.

He is a member of many local, national and international stamp clubs. He helped develop a local/regional judging sheet, since adopted by The RPSC. Since the fall of 2003 he has been secretary of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. In the fall of 2005 he also began editing the GRVPA publication *Grand News*. He was co-chairman for ROYAL*2003*ROYALE and was on the planning committee for ROYAL*2005*ROYALE. Currently he is the Convention Chairman for The RPSC. He was elected a Fellow of The RPSC in 2006. He continues to judge at the local, regional and national levels.

His non-philatelic interests included reading mysteries and science-fiction; working cross word puzzles; hiking; and volunteering at the local seniors' centre.

Nomination des Directeurs

Les membres suivants de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada sont présentés pour élection comme directeurs, pour un terme de deux ans, de 2007 à 2009. Les candidats sont présentés par ordre alphabétique. Selon les statuts de la Société, une biographie des candidats est incluse. Une procuration est incluse pour tous ceux qui ne pourront pas assister à l'assemblée générale annuelle de la Société.



ROB McGUINNESS • *West Vancouver, BC*

Rob McGuinness was born in West Vancouver in 1947 and has continued to live in the area except for a brief two years spent teaching in Burns Lake B.C. He is a graduate of UBC and has been an educator for the past 37 years. Four years ago he retired from teaching but within eight months found himself back at a new school working two days a week, once again enjoying the challenges of being a Teacher-Librarian, in an elementary school library He and his wife Barb share their house with two adult children and a dog.

As a child he was first introduced to stamp collecting in 1952 when his mother gave him a package of stamps to entertain him on a family trip and he mounted them by value, not country, in a school notebook, using white glue. An adult friend of the family quickly got him straightened out about mounting and since then he has been an active collector and managed to keep his collection going through high school and university. His current collecting interests include the Barrel Cancels and Mail Bag Tag Cancels of Canada, Newfoundland and Canadian Metered Mail, Canadian Cinderellas and thematic collections on Children's Literature, Canada in World War II and Paper Crafts.

He joined the RPSC in 1972 and over the years has become a member of several other clubs and societies including the Royal Philatelic Society, London, BNAPS, PHSC, APS, ATA and the Cinderella Stamp Club.

Rob has occasionally written short articles for publication in several journals and now that he has more free time he hopes to increase his output. If he is elected a director of the RPSC he would like to become more actively involved with others in promoting philately in Canada

He has been involved with exhibiting and regional judging since the mid 1980's and has been an accredited National Level judge since 2003. Rob truly enjoys preparing for a show and the challenge of judging as well as the chance to travel and meet other collectors.



MICHAEL O. NOWLAN • *Oromocto, NB*

Michael O. Nowlan was born in Chatham (now Miramichi), New Brunswick in 1937. He commenced a 33-year career as a public school teacher in 1961, was married in 1964, and has five grown children and five grandchildren. He has lived in Oromocto, New Brunswick since 1965.

He was very active in many aspects of education including a two-year term as President of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English and a five-year stint as assistant director of the Curriculum Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Education. A published author since the early 1970s, he lists 20 books – anthologies, poetry, stories, text books – to his credit. Since 1992, he has written extensively for philatelic publications including *Canadian Stamp News, The Canadian Philatelist, The American Philatelist, Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and more recently for *Mekeel's* and *Stamps*. In 2004, he was honoured by the Writers' Unit 30 of the American Philatelic Society with a certificate "in recognition of his efforts to publicize our hobby of stamp collecting through the publication of many articles" in the non-philatelic press. He has won several silver medals and one vermeil for his philatelic writing.

He is an accredited RPSC/APS philatelic literature judge who has been on the jury for six of Canada's seven National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions and at several major shows in the United States. He was chair of the organizing committee for the RPSC booth at CAPEX '96 and a member of the organizing committee for ROYAL*1999*ROYALE in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He has been the RPSC Public Relations Officer since 1998. He is an active member of the Fredericton & District Stamp Club. In 2007, he headed a committee to develop guidelines for the Geldert Medal which is given annually for the best article or series of articles in *The Canadian Philatelist*.

A stamp collector since he was about 10-years-old, his collecting interests include used Canada, used U.S., Canada Scott No. 210, the RCMP on stamps, Beethoven on stamps, and numerous other interests. He was first elected to the board of the RPSC in 2006.



MICHAEL PEACH • *New Bedford, NS*

Michael Peach is a chemist and a retired University Professor and Administrator. Since his retirement, he has been teaching part-time.

While he collected stamps as a child, he has been collecting more seriously since the mid 1960s. His main interest is Victorian Britain, while maintaining collections of Great Britain, Canada and Germany. Other interests include early picture postcards and the use of stamps cut out from postal stationery to prepay postage.

He has been active in philately in the Atlantic area for many years, and before moving to Halifax, he was President of the Valley Stamp Club in Kentville. He is currently president of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club. He was chair of the organizing committee for the Halifax ROYAL*2004*ROYALE. Based on the success of this he promoted and organized the first national level Novapex, the Annual Stamp Show and Bourse of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, in 2006. He is co-chair of the upcoming BNAPS*2008*Novapex to be held in Halifax.

He has exhibited widely at the regional, national and international level. He is a national judge of The RPSC, and has been a judge at several national shows including The Royal, Orapex and Vanpex.

He is a frequent contributor to *The Canadian Philatelist, The Great Britain Collectors Club Chronicle, The American Philatelist* as well as the Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter and has contributed to The RPSC slide programme.



RICK PENKO • *Winnipeg, MB*

Rick is currently the President and a life member (L26953) of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He is a member of BNAPS and remains active in the local study group. Rick is a Past President of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society. He joined WPS as a junior in 1966. He has been Chairman of the local and national WPS annual stamp shows and has served on the committee for over 15 years.

Rick has been a leader in re-vitalizing the stamp collecting community in Winnipeg. As president of WPS he has encouraged co-operation between WPS and The Seniors' Stamp Club, the Scandinavian Collectors Club of Manitoba, and the Junior Stamp Club of Winnipeg.

He publishes *The Buffalo*, the journal of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society where he has added his graphic skills to the publication for over 12 years.

Rick's collecting interests are extensive. Beside Canada, Rick specializes in the stamps of the United States, Great Britain, Germany and Bangladesh. He is also a member of the APS and has built up an extensive library of material related to his collecting interests.

Rick is an accredited RPSC local judge and has exhibited locally. He has several years of judging experience and was an apprentice judge at several National Shows in Canada and the United States.

As a member of the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association, Rick has enjoyed dealing in the stamp trade for over six years.

He is a former member of the Stamp Advisory Committee of Canada Post and contributed to that body his graphic skills knowledge gained from his association with his own business for over 18½ years. Rick has over 34 years experience in the Graphic Arts field. He is the father of two children.



DAVID PIERCEY • *Edmonton, AB*

I am currently serving as the Judging Coordinator for the Royal as well as being one of The RPSC Directors for the past two years.

My qualifications include being an active judge, exhibitor, or show coordinator in a variety of forums. As a national-level judge, and as an exhibitor, I have been involved in several recent Royal/Royale shows, including serving as Chairman of the Jury for the successful Royal/Royale in Halifax. I have also been on the judging panel of a few other Royal/Royales, two AmeriStamp Expos in Toronto, one StampShow in Portland, on several PIPEX juries, two BNAPEX's, and other national or regional shows. I have also participated in, or led, judging seminars (under the auspices of the AAPE), and exhibiting seminars, in which prospective exhibitors were brought together to learn the art and craft of successful exhibiting.

My perspective on the role of judging is that it is a collaborative process for the benefit of the hobby. Judging aligns to the needs of the exhibiting fraternity – there is no mystery in the judging process – and is supportive of enhancing collectors in their development as exhibitors, regardless of whatever level they decide to take their exhibiting to.

My purpose in seeking reelection is to continue to bring this perspective to the Board as it navigates our society through the continuing development of our priorities, practices, and future planning.

RPSC news • nouvelles SRPC • RPSC news • nouvelles SRPC • RPSC news • nouvelles SRPC • RPSC news • nouvelles SRPC

in MEMORIAM
NÉCROLOGIE



Stan Lum
1925-2008

We were saddened to learn of the death of Stan Lum on Saturday, January 26, 2008.

Stan was a member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and an Emeritus member of the British North America Philatelic Society which he joined in late 1954. He was a prolific philatelic author, particularly for the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. Stan recently celebrated a writing milestone that few philatelic writers achieve: his articles appeared in 100 consecutive issues of *Maple Leaves*, the official journal of the CPS of GB under his nom de plume, The Yellow Peril. For his contributions to CPS of GB he was elected a Fellow of the society.

Stan also wrote for *BNA Topics*, most recently in the mid-1990s as co-author with Mel Baron. They authored 12 instalments entitled First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada. He was also a co-author with the late Elsie Drury of *Postage Due Stamps of Canada 1906 – 1928*, a handbook published just last September by BNAPS.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA – PROXY
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA – PROCURATION

The undersigned member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada hereby appoints Margaret Schulzke, Executive Assistant at the National Office of The RPSC, Toronto, Ontario, as the Proxy of the undersigned to attend and act for and on behalf and in the name of the undersigned at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in Sainte Foy, Quebec, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2008 upon any and all matters that may properly come before said meeting, or any adjournments thereof, the undersigned hereby ratifying and confirming all that the said Proxy may do by virtue thereof. The Proxy will vote:

1. To approve the election of eight (8) Directors, each of whom has been properly nominated according to the Society's by-laws to serve a two-year term of office ending at the Annual General Meeting in 2010:

Le membre sous-signé de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada désigne Margaret Schulzke, Adjointe executive, Bureau national de SRPC, Toronto, Ontario, pour agir par procuration pour le (la) sous-signé(e) en assistant et en agissant pour le (la) sous-signé(e) à l'assemblée générale annuelle de la Société qui se tiendra à Sainte Foy, Quebec, à 10 heures, samedi le 17 mai, 2008 sur tous les items qui seront légalement présentés à la dite assemblée, ou à tout ajournement de celle-ci, le (la) sous-signé(e) ratifiant et confirmant tout ce que la procuration à la droit de faire en vertu de celle-ci. La personne agissant par procuration votera:

1. Pour approuver l'élection de huit (8) directeurs, la candidature de chacun d'entre eux ayant été légalement faite selon les règlements de la Société pour un terme de deux (2) ans se terminant à l'assemblée générale de 2010:

❑ BUTLER, Peter	Toronto, ON	❑ NOWLAN, Michael O.	Oromocto, NB
❑ KRITZ, Peter	Hanover, ON	❑ PEACH, Michael	????
❑ MAGEE, Kenneth H	Clinton, ON	❑ PENKO, Rick	Winnipeg, MB
❑ McGUINNESS, Rob	West Vancouver, BC	❑ PIERCEY, David	Edmonton, AB

2. To appoint auditors of the Society.

3. To approve the actions of the officers and Directors since the last Annual General Meeting of members.

2. Pour designer une firme comme vérificateurs de La Société.

3. Pour approuver les actions des officiers et directeurs depuis la dernière assemblée générale annuelle des membres.

Dated this / Datée le _____ day of / jour de _____, 2008.

RPSC Member Number / Numéro de membre de La SRPC _____

Signature of Member / Signature du membre _____

Instructions:

You may vote for a maximum of eight (8) from the candidates listed above by marking an "X" in the box next to their names. If you do not wish to vote for the entire slate you may select the candidate(s) of your choice by marking an "X" in the box beside the name(s) of those candidate(s) you wish to elect. If your ballot is not spoiled, the proxy will vote in favour of those stipulated with your "X".

Mail or fax no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on May 1, 2008 to:

RPSC National Office, P.O. Box 929,
Station Q, Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1

Fax: (416) 921-1282

Instructions :

Vous pouves voter pour un maximum de huit (8) des candidats dans la liste ci-dessus en apposant un "X" dans la case à coté de leurs noms. Si vous ne désirez pas voter pour les huit veuillez mettre un "X" dans la case précédant les noms pour lesquels vous voulez voter. Si votre bulletin de vote est en bonne et dû forme, il sera voté pour les personnes dont les noms sont précédés par un "X" par la personne désignée par votre procuration.

Postez ou envoyez par fax au plus tard le 1 mai, 2008 (17 heures HSE), à:

Bureau national de SRPC, CP 929,
Succ. 'Q', Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1

Télécopieur : (416) 921-1282

Québec 1608-2008

ROYALE * 2008 * ROYAL

16-18 mai 2008 / May 16-18, 2008

Hotel Gouverneur, 3030 boul. Laurier, Québec, G1V 2M5

(418) 651-3030 1-866-651-3030 (Canada)

Web www.royale2008.org

www.rpsc.org

Rules and regulations for entry of exhibits

1- Eligibility

- The Royale 2008 philatelic exhibition is open to all individual collectors who meet the requirements contained in this Prospectus. The whole of the exhibit must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor(s).

2. Exhibit classification information

- Individual Competitive Classes/Divisions are intended for exhibits that fulfil one of the following criteria :
  - The exhibit has been awarded at least a silver at a previous local or regional show or
  - The exhibit is deemed by the Exhibition Committee to be sufficiently advanced to be entered in this exhibitions.
- Junior/Youth competitive classes are intended for exhibitors who have not reached their 22nd birthday on January 1.2008

3. Entry

- Each exhibit shall be entered in its correct Class/Division and section on the official entry form. The jury reserves the right to re-classifiy any exhibits.
- Five copies of the title page and synopsis must be send with each entry; these pages may be modified later if desired.
- Entry forms must be received no later than April 1, 2008 (later may be accepted but may not appear in the programme)
- The exhibition Committee reserves the right to reject any exhibit and the entry fee shall be refunded.
- Failure to show an accepted exhibit forfeits the entry fee.

Section 1	Traditional Philately; Postal History; Postal Stationery; Aerophilately; Special Studies
Section 2	Revenue Division
Section 3	Thematic Division
Section 4	Illustrated Mail Division
Section 5	Youth/Junior Class

4. Exhibit displays

- Exhibits will be display in frames holding sixteen (16) pages, not to exceed 23 x 29 cm (8 ½ x 11 inches), in four rows. All exhibits must be mounted on white or light coloured pages.
- Pages must be in heavy duty transparent page protectors, ideally closed on three sides, and numbered on the back, in sequential order to aid correct mounting of the exhibits. Exhibits not complying may not be display or judged.

- The name of the exhibitor must not appear on the face of the pages, unless on addressed exhibited covers.
- Exhibits in the Youth/Junior Class will be displayed in similar frames to the adult exhibits.
- Five (5) frames (16 pages each) is the maximal for one adult exhibit and two frames one exhibit for the youth/junior class.

5. Entry fees

- For Royale 2008 , the entry fee for all categories excepted Youth/Junior Class and « One Page » class is 15$ for one frame. No fee is asked for Youth/Junior Class

6. Delivery

- Exhibits must be forwarded to La Société philatélique de Québec to be received no earlier than May 1, 2008 and no later than May 10 2008 unless the exhibitors plans to bring the exhibit to the show. Please note your intent on the entry form.
- Hand delivered exhibits must be received between the hours of 4:00 and 9:00pm, Thursday, May 15, 2008 . at the Hotel Gouverneur. Exhibits received later may be disqualified.

7. Return

- The exhibition will close at 4;00 p.m. Sunday, May 18 2008. For security reasons, no exhibit may be dismounted before the close of the exhibition and until all visitors have cleared the exhibit area (travel plans should be made accordingly).
- Exhibitors or the authorized agents must present proper proof of identity to obtain their exhibits from the Exhibition Committee following the close of the exhibition.
- Exhibits not claimed in person will be returned at the expense of the owner as soon as possible in the manner directed by the owner. Prepayment of postage must accompany the Entry Form. Please allow sufficient time for processing before making enquiries.

8. Insurance and security

- Owners are advised that in their own interest, they should make arrangements for the insurance of their exhibits.
- Exhibits entered in the exhibition will be received, held, exhibited and returned at the risk of the owner. The Exhibition Committee will ensure that there is adequate security provided to protect the exhibits, but is not liable for any loss or damage howsoever caused.

9. Liability

- Although reasonable care and caution will be taken with the exhibits, no responsibility shall be attached to the La Société philatélique de Québec, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, The Canadian Stamp Dealers Association or the Hotel Gouverneur, nor members of the Exhibition Committee, nor its voluntary assistants, for any loss or damage to an exhibit arising from any cause or reason whatsoever.

10. Judging

- The Jury, consisting of accredited RPSC judges (number depending on the number of frames) will be selected by the RPSC Judging Coordinator in collaboration with the Société philatélique de Québec. They will make deliberations, consultations and decisions among themselves, in keeping with the RPSC regulations. Their decision will in all cases be final. The exhibits will be judged according the National Level standards, with separate criteria for other divisions.

11 Awards

- Royal medals, ribbons and certificates will be awarded to the exhibitors in competition in five levels: gold, vermeil, silver, silver-bronze and bronze.
- Other awards may be made at the discretion of the Exhibition Committee.
- Junior exhibitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

12 Ruling authority

- Any and all questions that may arise concerning the Exhibition, which are not provided for by the Prospectus Rules and Regulations shall be answered by the Exhibition Committee.

Address all correspondence to:

Christiane Faucher,
265 du Chalutier app. 306
Québec, QC, G1K 8R3
email: chrisjac@megaquebec.net

Québec 1608-2008

ROYALE * 2008 * ROYAL

16-18 mai 2008 / May 16-18, 2008

Hotel Gouverneur, 3030 boul. Laurier, Québec, G1V 2M5

(418) 651-3030 1-866-651-3030 (Canada)

Web www.royale2008.org
www.rpsc.org

Modalités d'inscription des collections

1. Critères d'admissibilité

- L'exposition philatélique ROYALE 2008 est ouverte à tous les collectionneurs privés qui satisfont aux critères stipulés dans le présent prospectus. La totalité de la collection exposée doit être la propriété de bonne foi du ou des exposants.

2. Renseignements sur la classification des collections

- Les classes ou divisions individuelles s'adressent aux collections qui remplissent les critères suivants:
  - La collection a déjà reçu au moins une médaille d'argent lors d'une exposition locale ou régionale.
  - La collection a été jugée suffisamment avancée pour ce concours par le Comité d'exposition.
- Les Classes Jeunesse et Junior s'adressent aux collections présentées par des personnes âgées de moins de 22 ans au 1 janvier 2008

3. Inscription

- Chaque collection doit être inscrite dans la classe, la division et la section appropriée du formulaire officiel d'inscription.
- Le jury se réserve le droit de reclasser toute collection.
- Cinq copies de la page titre et de l'exposé doivent être expédiées avec chaque inscription, ces pages pourront être modifiées ultérieurement si désiré.
- Les formulaires d'inscription doivent parvenir au plus tard le 1 avril 2008 (des inscriptions pourront être acceptées par la suite mais elles ne figureront pas dans le programme.
- Le Comité d'exposition se réserve le droit de refuser une collection; les frais d'inscription seront alors remboursés.
- En cas de non exposition d'une collection acceptée, les droits d'inscription seront retenus.

Section 1	Philatélie traditionnelle; histoire postale; entiers postaux, aérophilatélie; études spéciales#
Section 2	Division des timbres- taxes
Section 3	Division thématique
Section 4	Division du courrier illustré
Section 5	Classe Jeunesse, Junior

4. Présentation des collections

- Les collections doivent être présentées dans des cadres comprenant 16 pages (16) d'une grandeur maximale de 23 x 29 cm (8 ½ x 11 po), placées en quatre rangées. Toutes les collections doivent être montées sur des pages blanches ou légèrement teintées.
- Les pages doivent être insérées dans des pochettes protectrices transparentes solides, de préférence fermées sur trois côtés et numérotées au verso dans un ordre croissant qui permettra de monter la série correctement. Les collections non conformes risquent de ne pas être présentées ou jugées.

- Le nom de l'exposant ne doit pas apparaître au recto des pages, sauf sur des plis adressés.
- Les collections de classes Jeunesse et Junior doivent être exposées dans des cadres identiques à ceux de la classe adulte.
- Le nombre maximum de cadres de 16 pages par exhibit est fixé à cinq(5) cadres pour les adultes et de deux cadres pour la classe Jeunesse/Junior.

5. Droit d'inscription

- Pour toutes les catégories sauf pour la Classe Jeunesse /Junior, les frais sont de 15$ par cadre de 16 pages .
- Pour la Classe Jeunesse /Junior , il n'y a pas de frais d'inscription.

6. Livraison

- Les collections doivent parvenir à La Société philatélique de Québec au plus tôt le 1 mai 2008 et au plus tard le 10 mai 2008, à moins que l'exposant n'ait l'intention de les apporter lui-même à l'exposition . Veuillez indiquer votre intention sur la feuille d'inscription.
- Les collections livrées en main propre devront être déposées entre 16h00 et 21 h00 le jeudi 16.mai 2008, à l'Hôtel Gouverneur. Les collections reçues plus tard seront disqualifiées.

7. Retour

- L'exposition se terminera à 16 h le dimanche 18 mai 2008. Pour des raisons de sécurité, aucune collection ne pourra être démontée avant la fin de l'exposition et tant que tous les visiteurs n'auront pas quitté l'aire d'exposition (L'organisation du voyage devra être planifiée en conséquence).
- Les exposants ou leurs représentants autorisés devront présenter une preuve d'identité valide pour que le Comité d'exposition leur remettre leurs collections après la clôture de l'exposition.
- Les collections qui ne seront pas réclamées en personne seront retournées à leur propriétaire le plus tôt possible, à ses frais, de la façon qu'il aura spécifiée. Un paiement anticipé des frais d'envoi doit accompagner la feuille d'inscription. Veuillez accorder un délai raisonnable pour le traitement de cet envoi avant de commencer à investiguer.

8. Assurance et sécurité

- Les exposants sont avisés qu'il est dans leur intérêt de prendre des mesures pour assurer leurs collections.
- Les collections présentées à l'exposition seront reçues, manipulées, exposées et retournées aux risques de leur propriétaire. Le Comité d'exposition s'assurera que la sécurité nécessaire est fournie pour la protection des collections, mais ne sera pas tenu responsable des pertes ou des dommages encourus le cas échéant.

9. Responsabilité en cas de dommages

- Des précautions raisonnables seront prises pour protéger les collections . Cependant, aucune responsabilité ne sera imputée à La Société philatélique de Québec, à la Société royale de philatélie du Canada, à L'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste, au lieu d'exposition l'Hôtel Gouverneur, aux membres du Comité d'exposition ou à leurs aides bénévoles pour toutes pertes ou tous dommages à une collection, encourus de quelques façon et pour quelque raison que ce soit.

10. Évaluation

- Un jury constitué de juges accrédités de la SRPC (leur nombre dépendra du nombre de cadres) sera sélectionné par le coordonnateur des évaluations de la SRPC en collaboration avec la Société philatélique de Québec . Leurs délibérations, consultations et décisions se feront à huis clos, selon les règlement de la SRPC. Leurs décisions seront, dans tous les cas, sans appel. Les collections seront évaluées selon les normes nationales et selon des critères particuliers pour les autres divisions.

11. Prix

- Des médailles, des rubans et des certificats de la Royale seront accordés aux exposants du concours, selon cinq niveaux : or , vermeil, argent, argent –bronze et bronze.
- D'autres prix pourront être accordés à la discrétion du Comité d'exposition.
- Les exposants Jeunesse et Junior recevront un certificat de participation.

12. Pouvoir de décision

- Toute question concernant l'exposition , non traitée dans les règlements du présent prospectus, sera réglée par le Comité d'exposition.

Veuillez adresser toute correspondance à:

Christiane Faucher,
265 du Chalutier app. 306
Québec , QC, G1K 8R3
courriel: chrisjac@megaquebec.net

QUÉBEC 1608-2008

ROYALE * 2008 * ROYAL

16-18 mai 2008 / May 16-18, 2008

Hôtel Gouverneur, 3030 boul. Laurier, Québec, G1V 2M5
(418) 651-3030 1-866-651-3030 (Canada)

La Société philatélique de Québec est heureuse d'être l'hôte de la 80e convention de la Société Royale de philatélie du Canada à l'occasion du 400e anniversaire de la fondation de la Ville de Québec.

Emplacement de l'exposition

L'hôtel Gouverneur est situé à proximité des principaux axes routiers, du pont Pierre-Laporte qui traverse le fleuve Saint-Laurent ainsi qu'à une dizaine de minutes de l'Aéroport international Jean-Lesage.

Hébergement

Des tarifs spéciaux à partir de 140$ / nuitées vous sont offerts par l'Hôtel Gouverneur.

STATIONNEMENT GRATUIT
Téléphone : (418) 651-3030 ou 1-866-651-3030
Lors de votre réservation veuillez mentionner que vous participez à la Royale*2008 organisée par la Société philatélique de Québec.

Pour tout autre renseignement, vous pouvez consulter le site Web de l'hôtel
www.gouverneursaintefoy.com
www.royale2008.org

Activités optionnelles (pour les membres accompagnateurs)

1. Tour de ville
2. Championnat mondial de hockey
3. Musée de la civilisation (Or des Amériques)
4. Festivités du 400e de Québec

Des navettes pourraient être organisées s'il y avait un nombre suffisant de participants. Des informations additionnelles seront disponibles à la table d'enregistrement relativement aux attractions, aux restaurants et aux centres d'achat à proximité.

Activités prévues

Vendredi soir le 16 mai
– Réception du président

Samedi soir le 17 mai
– Banquet de remise des prix

As Quebec City celebrates the 400th anniversary of its foundation, the Société philatélique de Québec is pleased to host the 80th Annual Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Location of the show

Hotel Gouverneur Québec is situated at the entrance to Quebec City, near main highways and the Pierre Laporte bridge and approximately 10 minutes from the Jean Lesage International Airport.

Accomodation

Special guests rates starting from 140$ per night are offered at Hotel Gouverneur.

FREE PARKING
Phone : (418) 651-3030 or 1-866-651-3030
At the time of your reservation please mention that you are taking part in Royal*2008 organized by the Société philatélique de Québec

For more information see the hotel's web site
www.gouverneursaintefoy.com
www.royale2008.org

Optional entertainment (accompanying members program)

1. Guided tour of Old Quebec City
2. World Championship of hockey
3. Civilisation museum (Gold of America)
4. Quebec celebrations for its 400th anniversary

Shuttles could be organized if there were a sufficient number of participants. Details will be available at the registration desk together with a list of attractions, shopping centres and restaurants in the immediate area.

Planned events

Friday night, May 16
– President's Reception

Saturday night, May 17
– Awards Banquet

ROYALE*2008*ROYAL

FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION / REGISTRATION FORM

NOM / NAME: _____

ADRESSE / ADDRESS: _____

VILLE / CITY: _____ PROVINCE : _____

PAYS / COUNTRY: _____ CODE POSTAL: _____

TÉLÉPHONE / PHONE: _____

COURRIEL / E-MAIL: _____

Chèque à l'ordre de SPQ / ROYALE 2008 en devises canadiennes expédié à :
Cheques payable to SPQ / ROYAL 2008 in Canadian funds to:

SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE QUÉBEC, C.P. 70076, Succ. Québec-centre, Québec, QC, Canada G2J 0A1

PLEASE REGISTER FOR TICKETS BY APRIL 25, 2008

ACTIVITÉ / EVENT	COÛT / COST	NB BILLETS / # TICKETS	TOTAL / TOTAL
Vendredi soir le 16 mai, réception du président / Friday night, May 16, President's Reception	$ 15.00		
Samedi soir le 17 mai, banquet de remise des prix / Saturday night, May 17, Awards Banquet	$ 65.00		
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Veuillez utiliser un formulaire différent pour chaque collection et le remplir à la dactylo ou en caractère d'imprimerie. Il devra parvenir au Comité d'exposition avant le 1 avril 2008 à l'adresse suivante:	*Please use a separate form for each exhibit. Type or print in block letters. This form must reach the Exhibition Committee no later than April 1 2008 by mailing to:*

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Description *(25 mots maximum, à inclure dans le programme de l'exposition) (Maximum 25 words-for inclusion in the Exhibition Program):*

_____

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Nombre de cadres requis	*Number of frames required*	*No.*	*à/at*	*Total*
Section 1: Philatélie traditionnelle; histoire postale; entiers postaux, aérophilatélie; études spéciales	*Traditional Philately; Postal History; Postal Stationery; Aerophilately; Special Studies*		*$15*	
Section 2 :Division des timbres-taxes	*Revenue Division*		*$15*	
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Prix gagnés antérieurement par cette collection (nom de l'exposition et niveau du prix)
Awards previously won by the exhibit (Name of Exhibition and award level:
*1-*_____
*2-*_____
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*Nom/Name:*_____

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Téléphone/telephone (maison, home) _____ *(travail/business)*_____

*Télécopieur/Fax*_____ *Courriel/E-mail*_____

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SPQ	*SRPC/RPSC*	*BNAPS*	*AAPE*	*APS*	*ATA*	*SHPQ*	*PHSC*
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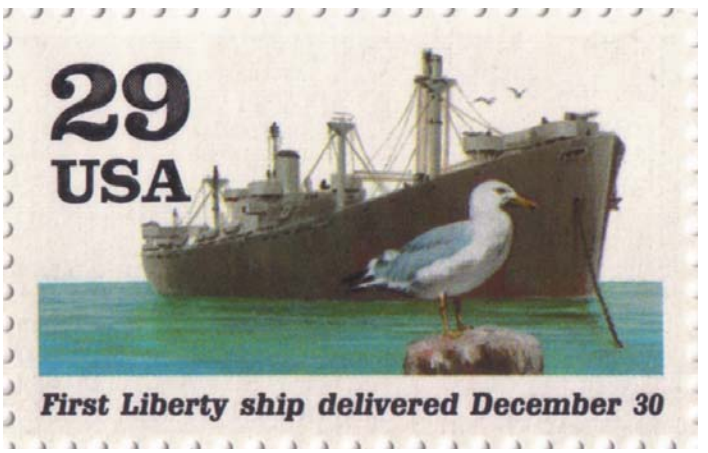
FIFTEEN YEARS and 30,000 MILES

By Ken Lewis

The topic of this article is a newspaper or a periodical sent to Chile in 1945 that was not delivered until November 1960 after travelling more than 30,000 miles. The story behind this mail item unfolds as follows.

Liberty Ships

During the Second World War, cargo ships were in very short supply to transport the necessary goods to Britain from her Commonwealth countries and from other parts of the world. The need for a continuous supply of ships was paramount to transport supplies as the Germans were sinking as many supply ships heading for Britain as possible. To satisfy this urgent need, the Americans built what have become known as 'Liberty Ships'. Liberty Ships were built as large emergency cargo vessels that were mass-produced to a modified British design.



It was the English Sunderland Company of Newcastle-upon-Tyne that produced the original design in 1879. Because the original design specified rivets, the Americans substantially modified it to allow welding of the riveted portions of the ship which considerably sped up the construction process. President Franklin D. Roosevelt referred to them as 'American ugly ducklings' and his 'Bridge of ships' from the New World to the Old. Liberty Ships were built to do just one voyage. Any further trips were a definite bonus. They were bought for the US Fleet and the lend-lease provision to Britain. Those ships destined for Britain were given the prefix 'SAM' because of the type of construction used: Superstructure Aft of Midships.

In the beginning, a ship was built in less than six months: this time was very quickly reduced to an average of 42 days and by the end of the war it was possible to produce and launch a ship in less than five days. A total of 2,700 Liberty Ships were built in the United States during the Second World War. The first of these ships was the *SS Patrick Henry*. It was launched on September 27, 1941. Each ship consisted of 250,000 separate parts that were prefabricated across the United States and subsequently all welded together in various shipyards. Total cost was to be under $2,000,000 per ship.

Liberty Ships were only produced in the USA during the Second World War and, quite understandably, were to be named after outstanding heroes and leaders in American history. As we can appreciate, this was easy for the first 300 or so ships but as the number of ships built entered the thousands this naming procedure became more difficult. Nevertheless, only famous and historic Americans were recognised for the naming ceremony. The Liberty Ship dealt with in this article is the *SS John Bidwell*. These ships were also referred to as DEMS – Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships. One of these ships, the *SS Stephen Hopkins*, sank a German Auxiliary Cruiser with her single 4-inch (10cm) gun.

The Man

John Bidwell, August 5, 1821 - April 4, 1900, was a rancher, politician, philanthropist, as well as an amateur botanist and geologist. He was the 1892 presidential candidate for the Prohibition Party. His wife Annie, born in 1839, was a civil leader, philanthropist, suffragist, and temperance reformer. Bidwell was famous for leading one of the first emigrant parties along the California Trail. He also

founded the town of Chico, California. It was in Chico where Bidwell built a mansion used extensively for entertaining.

The last voyages

On September 30, 1945 the *SS John Bidwell* made her fourth voyage from New York to Chile. On her return from Chile on November 7, 1945, she made her fifth and final voyage from New York to the western arm of the Mediterranean Sea. Her final journey called at Naples, Italy, sailing on November 26, to Cagliari, Sardinia, from where she sailed on December 4, to Oran, Algeria, on December 10, to Beni-Saf (Algeria – west of Oran, and on the same day sailed on her return voyage to New York, before making her way to the breaker's yard, in Philadelphia. It was there that she was to be broken up for scrap.

The reason for including this information about the very last voyage is to show the distances travelled since leaving New York on September 30, 1945. The mail on board was initially carried from New York, via the Panama Canal, to Chile and then on its return trip to New York from where it was taken across the Atlantic to the western reaches of the Mediterranean Sea before returning to New York and eventually to Philadelphia on the last leg of her life. It was after 15 years, in 1960, that she was finally prepared for scrapping. While the breaking crew was going through the ship they found a sealed compartment that they proceeded to open. Inside they found 500 bags of mail containing mainly individually addressed newspapers, in their original wrappers that due to an oversight had not been off-loaded in Chile.

This mail was forwarded to the addressees after a journey of approximately 30,000 miles, and some 15 years late, containing rather out-of-date news. Because there was no apparent urgency it has been assumed that the mail was forwarded on its last journey by sea, the air mileage, by the most direct route,

The journey details *(all by sea and distances are approximate):*

Voyage	Miles	Kilometres
New York to Santiago, Chile (via Panama Canal)	6,300	10,080
Santiago to New York (via Panama Canal)	6,300	10,080
New York to Gibraltar	4,200	6,720
Mediterranean voyage	2,400	3,840
Gibraltar to New York	4,200	6,720
New York to Philadelphia	500	800
Philadelphia to Santiago, Chile (via Panama Canal)	6,300	10,080
Total	**30,200**	**48,320**

The ship (*SS John Bidwell*)

Details and dimensions:

Length .....441 ft 6 in (135 m)

Beam.....56 ft 10.75 in (17.3 m)

Draught..... 27 ft 9.25 in (8.5 m)

Power plant: Two oil fired boilers combined with a triple expansion steam engine providing 2,500 horsepower (1.9MW) to a single 18-foot propeller.

Speed .....11-11.5 knots ..... (20- 21 km/h)

Crew 41

Capacity ..... 9,140 tons cargo .....(4,380 tons net)

Armament..... Stern-mounted 4 in (102 mm) deck gun for use against surfaced submarines, variety of anti-aircraft guns.

Build details

Built by:
California Shipbuilding Corporation, Terminal Island, Los Angeles, California

Engines:
Joshua Hendy Ironworks, Sunnyvale, California.

Hull Yard No: 108

Type Hull:
EC2 - S - C1 [E = Emergency, C = Cargo, 2 = Large Size]

MC No: ..... 683 .....[MC = Maritime Commission]

Built on Way ..... No. 1

Keel Laid: ..... 14th November 1942

Completed: ..... 19th December 1942

Delivered: ..... 31st December 1942

Days on Way: 35

Days in Water:.....12 ..... [from launch until delivery]

Total Days: 47

Registered:..... Los Angeles, California .....(Official number – 242684)

Scrapped..... In 1960 at Philadelphia

It is quite probable that the same crew stayed with the SS John Bidwell for its last two voyages. Without listing each crew member individually, William S. Pearson was her Master plus a crew of 37.



would only reduce the sea journey by about 500 miles but the flight would only take hours instead of weeks by ship. An alternative route for the mail would be to fly it to San Francisco and then by sea to Chile. San Francisco has regular sea transport to many ports along the West Coast of both North and South America.

The Mail

When the recovered mail finally arrived in Chile, the Chilean Post Office marked the individual items with a large boxed cachet that reads 'Correspondencia Retardada/Y Recuperada Del/*SS John Bidwell*/ 1945 1960/Correos De Chile' [Delayed correspondence recovered from the *SS John Bidwell* – Post Office of Chile] using purple ink. This cachet has a large blank space between the years of 1945 and 1960. It is considered that this handstamp contained a silhouette of a sailing vessel. As the *SS John Bidwell* was a steamship, it would be incongruous to depict a sailing ship and this part of the cachet was removed prior to applying it to the items of mail.

The addressee was:

Derek Palmer*
Casilla 2393
Santiago De Chile
South America

This address has the figures 'R624/F285' alongside, indicating that postage had been paid by the sender's account for a number of newspapers that were posted at the same time hence the absence of a postage stamp. Which newspaper/periodical this wrapper contained is presently unknown. There are references to some items of mail having a receiver with the date of November 25, 1960 applied by the Chilean Post Office whereas this newspaper wrapper did not appear to warrant this mark. This being the case, it took a minimum of 15 years and 1 month and an enormous distance to eventually deliver the mail to the intended address.

Conclusion

Unfortunately very little documentation has been retained relating to the cargoes and voyages of Liberty Ships. This does not mean that logs were not kept. But not all the shipping companies archived them which means that postal and maritime historians are fighting an uphill battle to obtain what information is available. We hope that future research into the individual history of Liberty Ships will unearth additional data that will augment what is contained in this article thereby assisting maritime historians. ✉

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Bud Shortridge for providing details pertaining to Liberty Ships, and the late David Cornelius (a leading British postal historian). Details of information from currently available log/day books came from the National Archives and Records Administration in the USA. The USA stamp illustrating a Liberty Ship was kindly loaned by Gareth James.

***Editor's note: Derek Palmer was a well-known Chilean stamp collector.**

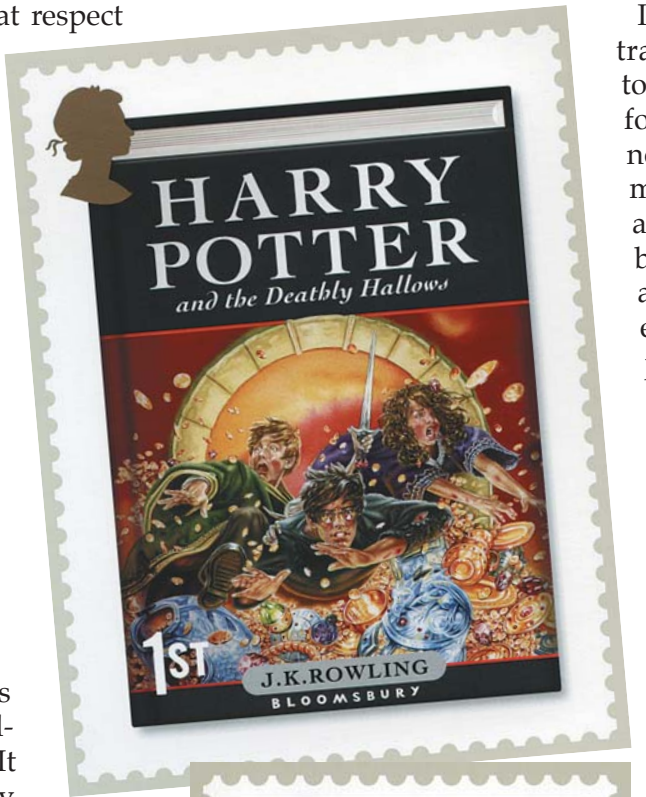
A Superb Ten-Year Story Ends

By Richard Logan

This sexagenarian Muggle is in a mode of quiet mourning for the end of an era: the end of the ten-year Harry Potter story.

I have great admiration and respect for the story that J.K. Rowling wove over seven volumes. I particularly enjoyed the new vocabulary that unfolded over the series. I also have great respect for the intricacy of the characters and the story line that Rowling developed.

The series has been translated into 65 languages, placing Rowling among the most translated authors in history and the seven volumes published to date have collectively sold more than 335 million copies worldwide. During its first 24 hours on the bookshelves, the final volume sold 812,000 copies in Canada; 2.65 million in the United Kingdom and 8.3 million in the United States.





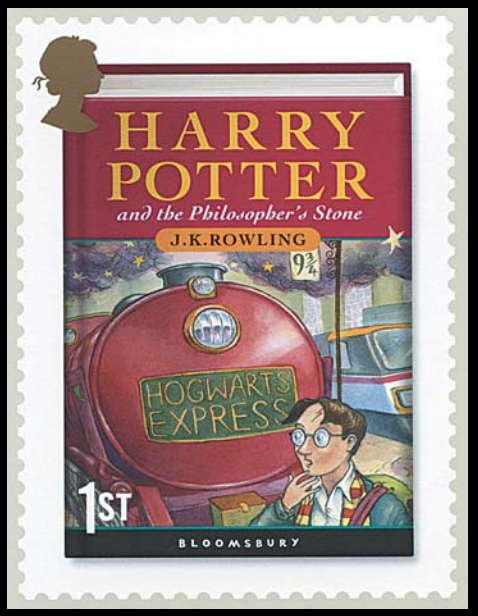
Just a girl named Jo

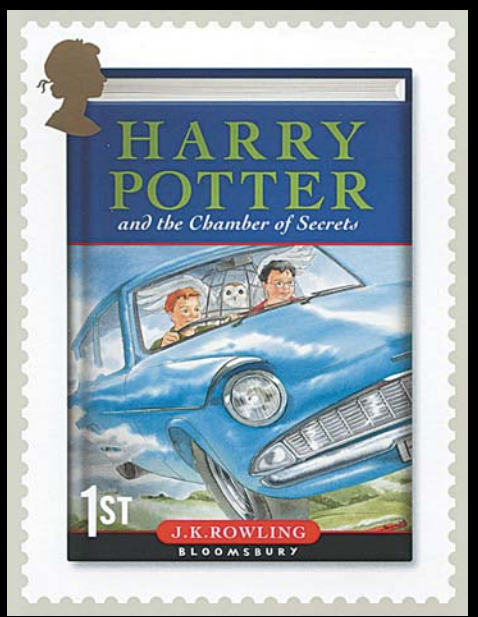
Joanne Rowling's story is almost as fantastic as her celebrated creation, Harry Potter. It was her publisher, Bloomsbury, who advised her to adopt two initials in place of her given name, Joanne, as a book by a woman was not very saleable. Rowling had no middle initial so she adopted her grandmother's name, Kathleen and, ergo, J. K. Born not far from Bristol on July 31, 1965, she grew up in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, on the Welsh border. At school, she excelled in English and languages. Rowling was not much good at games but she loved to write and tell fantasy stories that stemmed from an unrestrained imagination.

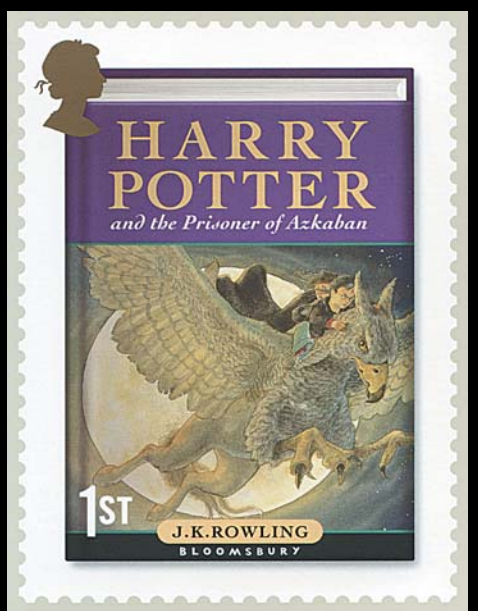
At Exeter University, Rowling studied French and the Classics and, following a short time in Paris, settled in London. Employed as a researcher and bilingual secretary for Amnesty International, she worked on human rights issues then prevailing in French-speaking Africa.

In 1990, on a delayed train from Manchester to London, the storyline for the first Harry Potter novel germinated in her mind and the boy wizard, Harry Potter, was born. Rowling gives an account of the experience on her Website, jkrowling.com: "I had been writing almost continuously since the age of six but I had never been so excited about an idea before. I simply sat and thought, for four (delayed train) hours and all the details bubbled up in my brain and this scrawny, black haired, bespectacled boy who didn't know he was a wizard became more and more real to me." She arrived back at her apartment at Clapham Junction and began writing.

Not long after this inspiration, her mother died following a long fight with







multiple sclerosis. This deeply affected Rowling. Her grief was compounded by the fact that she had never told her mother about filling her extra time writing the first of the Harry Potter novels.

Rowling gave up her position with Amnesty International and moved to Portugal for a position teaching English as a second language. Soon after, she met and married Jorge Arantes, a Portuguese television journalist, on October 16, 1992. They were blessed with a daughter whom they named Jessica Rowling Arantes. The marriage lasted eleven months and following the divorce, in 1993, Rowling took Jessica back to England.

In December 1994, Rowling moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, to be near her sister Di. Without a job and barely subsisting on the dole, Rowling set about writing her novel. It took about a year and in 1995 *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was completed and the search began for a literary agent. The second agent she tried, Christopher Little, offered to represent her. He solicited publishers for about a year until a small publisher named Bloomsbury gave Rowling a 3,000-Pound Sterling advance for its publication.

Alice Newton, the Chairperson of Bloomsbury advised Rowling not to give up her day job because there was little money in writing children's books. With the small advance she continued writing and was fortunate enough to get an 8,000-Pound Sterling Grant from the Scottish Arts Council which allowed her to pursue her writing career full time.

The First Book

The first Harry Potter book was published in the United Kingdom by Bloomsbury in July 1997 with an initial run of 1,000 copies. Five hundred of this run went to Public Libraries who now keep them locked up because they have acquired an antiquarian value of close to 25,000 Pounds Sterling.

Awards

It wasn't long before the book won its first literary award and since that time, J.K. Rowling and the Harry Potter series have been the recipients of a host of awards including a commendation for the Carnegie Medal, a short listing for the Guardian Children's Award and numerous listings on editor's choices and best book lists of the American Library Association, *New York Times, Publisher's Weekly* and the Chicago Public Library.

The Books

The rapid successive releases of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (1997/98); *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (1999); *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (1999); and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2000) allowed neither Rowling's audiences excitement nor interest to wane while she took a break from writing. She had solidified a loyal readership. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* appeared in 2003; *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* in 2005; and the final book *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows* in 2007.

All seven books in the series are available in audio book format. The UK editions are performed by Stephen Fry, while the U.S. versions are performed by Jim Dale.

Rowling also produced two supplementary books: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Quidditch Through the Ages*, both printed in 2001.

Cultural Impact

Since the publishing of the first Harry Potter book, a number of societal trends have been attributed to the series.

The most remarkable trend attributed to the books has been an increase in literacy among the young. A short narrative suggesting such an increase appeared to be confirmed in 2006 when the *Kids and Family Reading Report* released a survey finding that more than 51 percent of Harry Potter readers ages five to 17 said that they did not read books for fun before they started reading Harry Potter but they now did. The study further noted that more than 65 percent of children's performances in school improved since they started reading the series.

In fact, as the series progressed, each book got longer and developed along with the reader's literary abilities. A word count comparison showed how each book, except the sixth, was longer than its predecessor, requiring greater concentration and longer attention spans to complete. This was seen as contributing to improved literary abilities in children who tackled the series.

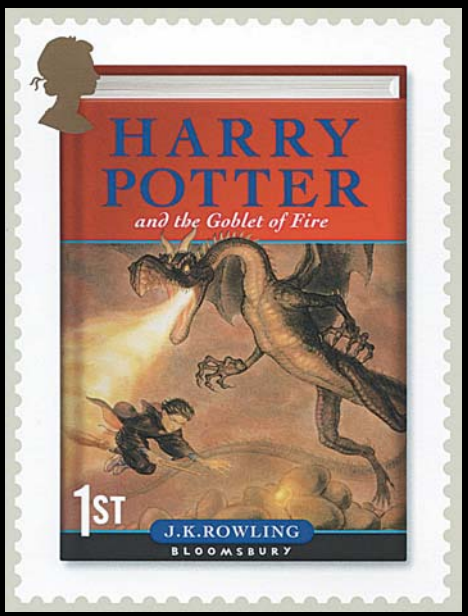
The Harry Potter series also brought changes in the publishing world, one of the best examples being the reformation of the *New York Times* Best Seller List. The change came immediately preceding the release of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* in 2000 when book publishers complained of the number of slots on the list being held by Harry Potter and other children's literature.

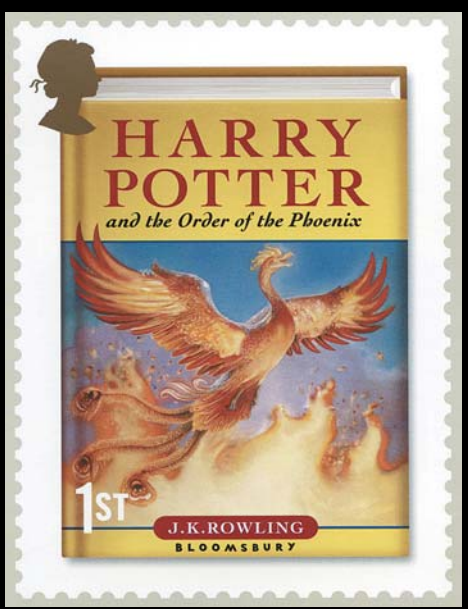
The word "Muggle" has spread beyond its Harry Potter origins. It is used by many groups to indicate those who are not "in the know" or are lacking in some skill. In 2003, "Muggle" entered the *Oxford English Dictionary* with this definition.

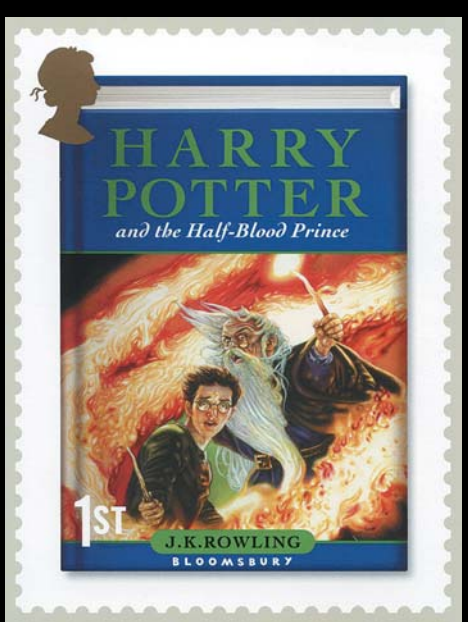
Criticism

In its early life, the Harry Potter series received overwhelmingly positive reviews that helped the series attract a large readership. Following its publication the first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone*, was greatly praised by most of the world's major newspapers. Following the 2003 release of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, however, the series was criticized by a number of distinguished authors and academics.

Harold Bloom, a Yale professor, literary scholar and critic, raised caustic criticisms of the books' literary merits, saying: "Rowling's mind is so governed by clichés and dead metaphors







that she has no other style of writing." Bloom also disagreed with the common notion that the Harry Potter series has been good for literature by encouraging children to read, contending that, "Harry Potter will not lead our children on to Kipling's *Just So Stories* or his *Jungle Book*. It will not lead them to Thurber's *Thirteen Clocks* or Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows* or Lewis Carroll's *Alice*."

In an article in the *Remnant*, columnist Marian Therese Horvat, PhD, wrote, "One of the greatest problems of the Harry Potter craze, as I see it, is the tremendous confusion between good and evil it is bound to generate among the youth, especially in the already relativized ambience of our days. Children not only need absolutes, but seek them." She went on to say, "…it is a well known maxim that where religion regresses, superstition progresses." and "what starts as fun and jokes can end in a horrendous reality."





Finally, "What is most dangerous about the Harry Potter novels? It is precisely this: they don't appear dangerous. Harry Potter and his friends cast spells, read crystal balls and everything is fine. The author takes very serious matters that the Catholic Church has always condemned and cautioned her children to stay far away from – magic, charms, spells, sorcery, palm reading, Ouija boards, etc. – and treats them in a trivial and even jesting fashion. In today's climate, charged with invitations to experiment with the occult, it is too much to open the door even an inch to the Prince of Darkness, who prowls about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Books that make sorcery and spells and charms seem so amusing and harmless are deceitful. At best, they certainly encourage children to take a smiling tolerant New Age view of witchcraft. In my view, already that is too much."

A further criticism comes from feminist Christine Schoefer who contends that the series is patriarchal and male chauvinistic. According to Schoefer, the Harry Potter series presents a world filled with stereotypes and adherence to "the conventional assumption that men do and should run the world." She suggests that this conventionality might be part of the comfort readers take in the series. She cites Harry Potter's courage in dangerous situations in contrast to Hermione's apparent emotional frailty when confronting the same, along with her need for Harry and Ron's approval. Shoefer also contrasts the female Professor McGonagall and her similar frailty under stress compared to the composed and farsighted Dumbledor.

A Huge Success

The extreme popularity of the Harry Potter series has translated into a substantial financial success for Rowling, her publishers, Warner Brothers and other Harry Potter related licence holders. Forbes reported in March 2007, that J.K. Rowling is by some reports richer than the Queen and second only to Oprah Winfrey. More importantly, she is regarded as the world's most popular living author.

On the Home Front

On December 26, 2001, Rowling married Neil Michael Murray, an Edinburgh anaesthetist by whom she has had a son, David Gordon Rowling Murray, born March 24, 2003; and a daughter, Mackenzie Jean Rowling Murray, born on January 23, 2005. The family divides its time between their homes in Perthshire and a flat in London.

History of Philanthropy

Rowling has contributed large sums of money to charities ranging from help for single parents, multiple sclerosis, regenerative medicine and various projects to encourage children to read or improve their reading skills. For her efforts, she has received the Order of the British Empire from the Queen. She has had an asteroid and a housing development in Bristol named after her. A recently discovered dinosaur in Indiana has been named "Dracorex Hogwartsia."

Joanne Rowling's final goodbye to Harry Potter – *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, a 160-page spin-off of five

wizard fairy tales that relate to his final adventure – recently sold for more than four million dollars at auction in London, England. The money will go to the charity "Children's Voice" which was co-founded by Rowling.

Rowling handwrote and illustrated seven copies of the book. The one that was auctioned off was bound in brown morocco and sterling silver. The other six copies were given to people "most closely connected" to producing the Potter series.

What's Next?

In an interview given last July, Rowling announced that there are plans to produce an encyclopaedia of the world of Harry Potter, based on the novels and their characters. The proceeds from this work will go to charity.

In late 2009, Universal Orlando's Island of Adventure expects to open "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" as "the world's first immersive Harry Potter themed environment."

Rowling says that she will not publish an eighth Harry Potter novel now that Harry Potter and his chums have graduated from Hogwarts.

However, it is worth noting here that in 1893, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in spite of everyone's petitions, decided to get rid of Sherlock Holmes. In "The Final Problem" Holmes and Moriarty plunged to their deaths at The Reichenbaert Falls. In 1903 we saw "The Return of Sherlock Holmes." Remember, Harry Potter is not dead.





Philatelic Impact

There has been no great move for countries to rush to the Harry Potter philatelic trough. Taiwan was first to jump in followed by The Isle of Man, Kyrgyzstan, Tadzhikistan, France, Australia, Singapore, Russia, Congo, Benin and Mauritania. All are "OK" however none are more beautiful and imaginative than the Royal Mail Harry Potter issue.

During the past ten years, there were numerous requests to Great Britain's Royal Mail to issue Harry Potter stamps as a way of getting kids to take up stamp collecting. It finally happened on July 17, 2007 when Royal Mail announced that it was "proud to commemorate and celebrate an illustrious British author and a true global publishing phenomenon."

Seven of the colourful issues reproduce the dust jackets for the Harry Potter series of books. The stamps are se-tenant, with the different designs side by side. Each stamp is non-denominated with a "1ST" inscription indicating that it pays the domestic First Class rate of 34 pence. The stamps are water activated. The firm True North designed the stamps.

The other five stamps in the set show the crest of Hogwarts and the four houses that comprise the school: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Slytherin and Ravenclaw. The stamps are water activated. They are also featured on a souvenir sheet.

Self-adhesive versions of the five stamps were also produced in a pane of 20 with se-tenant labels printed with a special ink. The ink is thermocromatic – heat sensitive – and when rubbed the design changes to reveal the meaning of a spell from the Harry Potter novels.

A special presentation pack includes a mint set of the dust jacket stamps with text by journalist and author Jim Davies.

Royal Mail is also offering two first-day covers featuring the two-stamp sets and a set of 13 postcards that feature enlarged images of the stamps and the souvenir sheet. ✉

Endnote:

I will now extinguish my deluminator and disapparte to bed, warm in the knowledge that Harry Potter and friends are close by, always ready to be read again and again.

Protego!

by "Napoleon"

Common Cancels

In the comics, if Snoopy were a stamp collector, the Red Baron would be a postal clerk "defacing" stamps with cancellations. But Snoopy could create a win-win situation by becoming interested in cancellations. This article takes that win-win approach for common French cancellations from 1849-1875.

There were seven issues of French stamps during those years. Starting in 1853, the CDS often was used to cancel the stamp but was used mostly to mark entry of mail into the postal system. In 1876, the postal service began to use the circular date stamp (CDS) to cancel the stamp, intentionally and almost exclusively. Before the CDS became the intended cancel in 1876, there were numerous shapes used to cancel stamps, but only nine were used commonly enough to be the "base price" cancel on various stamps.

In approximate order of use, the nine were:

- Grill
- "Endless" grill
- Star formed by dots
- "Endless" matrix of small squares or dots
- Diamond-of-dots with small number in center (PC losange)
- "Endless" matrix of tiny dots
- Diamond-of-dots with large number in center (GC losange)
- Circular date stamp (CDS): many forms
- Star formed by dots; large number in center

For all of these, the common colour was black, although blue and red were used occasionally on more than half of the types. Definition for this article: common means a cancel with less than a 100% catalog premium over the lowest value cancellation.

Grill: the grill cancel was diamond-shaped, with the diamond made up of a 6x6 array of smaller diamonds. As shown in Table 1, Common Cancels on Each Issue, 1849-1875, the grill cancel was common on all of the stamps in the first Ceres issue, the 10c of the 1852 Presidente issue (Louis Napoleon as president), and the 1fr of the imperforate Napoleon III issue.

Endless grill: the endless grill was a cancel for multiple stamps. It was common on all of the first two issues except the 20c Ceres and the 25c Presidente denominations. It remained common on two stamps of the 1853 imperforate "Louis Napoleon as emperor" issue. The two Napoleon III imperforate stamps are the 25c and the 1fr, and are the only ones for which the price of the ordinary 6x6 grill is higher than that of the endless grill.

The endless grill was an array of small parallelograms five deep rather than six deep, and "endless." Occasionally the only way to determine whether a grill is normal or endless is to count the rows. If there are six each way, it is the normal grill. If there are only five rows in one direction, it's the endless form. Figure 1 shows both the normal grill and the endless one.



Figure 1.

Star of dots: the star formed with small dots was a Parisian post office cancel. It was common on almost all of the first Ceres issue and for most stamps up until the Sage issue of 1876. Figure 2 illustrates the star cancel and its off-spring, the Parisian star-and-number cancel.



Figure 2.

An uncommon form of this cancel was an "endless" one created with a roller. A pattern of repetitive, neatly aligned stars may be a roller cancel.

Endless matrix of small squares or dots: there were several sizes of the squares and dots, and there were various spacings. All squares or dots were six rows high. The intended use was to cancel multiple stamps at one time.

This cancel came into use with the first Ceres stamps, and remained common through the imperforate Napoleon III stamps. While not common on any denominations of the perforated Napoleon stamps, it was common on the 5fr Napoleon-with-laurel-wreath issue. Figure 3 shows two forms of this cancel, as well as its related endless matrix of tiny dots.



Figure 3.

Diamond-of-dots with small number in center (PC losange): the French losange cancel was an 8x8 diamond of dots. The earliest version had short numerals or letters called petits chiffres (PC). The later version had tall

numerals called gros chiffres (GC). PC numerals were about 4 mm high and GC numerals about 6 mm high. Figure 4 shows the PC and GC cancels for Alexandria, Egypt.

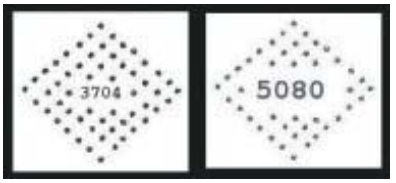


Figure 4.

PC cancels were used from 1852-1863. They were assigned to individual French cities and towns in alphabetical order; PC 1 was for Abbeville, and PC 3703 for Yvré-l'Evéque. PC 3704 (Alexandria) started a new sequence for cities outside France, and PC 3740 began a sequence for newly created post offices in France. The common losange cancels were the PC and GC ones, not those mentioned in the next two paragraphs. Individual PC and GC cancels vary widely in value, so while the inexpensive ones were indeed common, some of them were quite rare.

When the losange went into use, Paris post offices used letters and numerals with serifs. Later, branch post offices in Paris used letters and numerals without serifs. France also used sans-serifs letters in the losange for rail route cancels. For example, "TB" in a losange was for the Toulouse-to-Bordeaux rail route. France also used sans-serif letters for special post offices. Examples included the Exposition Universelle (EU) of 1867 and the 1860 Corps Expéditionnaires de Chine, Bureau A (CECA). With an anchor in the center, the cancel denoted maritime mail.

Losanges also came with nothing in the center (losange évidé), and with dots filling the center (losange plein). A losange plein on an imperforate copy of the emperor-with-laurel-wreath or last Head of Ceres issue strongly suggests that the stamp is a French Colonies general issue imperforate, as many colonial cancels had dots filling the losange. It is even more likely that a losange plein cancel comes from a colony if the cancel is in colour. Colour was much more common as a colonial cancel that as a metropolitan one.

"Endless" matrix of tiny dots: with the imperforate Napoleon issue, France began to use an endless cancel of tiny dots rather than the small squares or dots. The two forms had the columns of dots either perpendicular or tilted relative to the rows. Figure 3 shows both forms. The cancel was only common on the 5c, 40c, and 80c stamps of the imperforate Napoleon issue. The cancel ceased to be common at the end of this issue and was the last "endless" cancel France created in the 19th century. While this was the last 19th century "endless" cancel, the small squares or dots cancel remained common longer, albeit only on the 5 fr Napoleon-with-laurel-wreath stamp.

Note: for this article, a cancel is "common" if it does not at least double the value of the stamp. The 5 fr Napoleon-with-laurel-wreath stamp has a high catalog value, but seldom is found in good condition. The various "endless" cancels carry a premium of $100 or more, so they add significant value to a damaged copy of this stamp.

Diamond-of-dots with large number in center (GC losange): GC cancels came into use at the time of the Napoleon-with-laurel-wreath issue of 1863. Like PC cancels, GC cancels were assigned alphabetically. GC 1-4361 were original assignments, GC 4362-4999 later metropolitan post offices, and 6000-6449 even later post offices in metropolitan France. GC cancels 5000-5172 were foreign cities and towns.

When GC cancels came into use, the obsolete PC cancels were sent to the city now using the number. Thus PC 1002 for Courtenay was sent to Cherbourg, GC 1002. Occasionally the PC cancel was used again, creating "PC of GC" usage. Figure 5 shows a PC of GC cancel. How does one recognize PC of GC usage? If a PC cancel is on any stamp from the emperor-with-laurel-wreath or a later issue, it is PC of GC usage.



Figure 5.

Circular date stamp (CDS): by the early 19th century, France was using circular date stamps to mark mail entering the postal service. A CDS also was used to mark later stages of its distribution. By the time of the imperforate Napoleon III issue, the CDS was common on the lower denomination stamps. (See Table 1.) It was not until the Bordeaux issue that the CDS became common on all denominations. And it was not until the Peace and Commerce (Sage) issue that the CDS became the intended cancellation. Figure 6 shows a typical CDS (Type 17), a rail post cancel (wavy edges on the outer circle), and a test cancel (outer ring of dots).


Figure 6.

There were six major types of circular CDS--Types 15 (small double circle), 16 (single circle), 17 (large double circle), 22 (small triple circle, outer ring dotted), 23 (double circle, outer ring dotted), and 24 (large triple circle, outer ring dotted). In these descriptions, "small" and "large" are relative to the other cancellations. None are minute or gigantic. While the CDS may have been common on a particular denomination of an issue, different circular date stamps may have quite different values on the same stamp. In general, the cancellations with dotted outer rings are more valuable than the others.

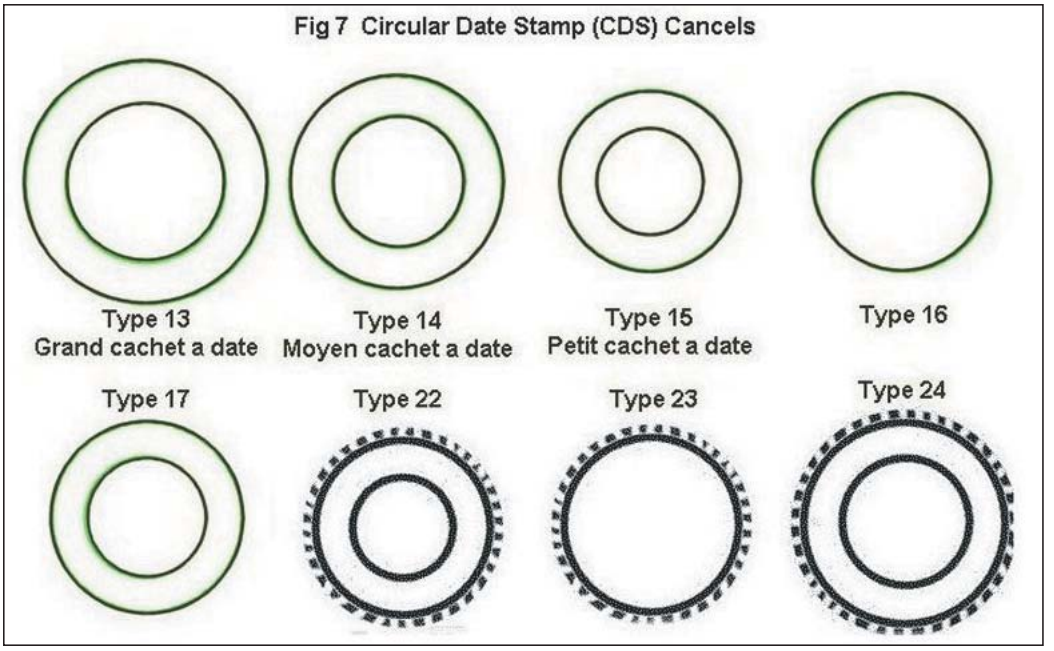


Figure 7.

Figure 7 shows all six common forms of the CDS, with each CDS at actual size. Copying Figure 7 on transparency film would create a handy template for checking French cancellations.

As with the PC losange and GC losange, the CDS was used at post offices outside France. Such usages are catalogued in the Yvert et Tellier Specialisé. Few fall into the category of "common" cancels, but they are interesting when found and somewhat easy to identify.

Other uncommon circular date stamps are those from the period of the Paris Commune. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 ended when preliminary peace terms were signed in late February 1871. The terms included ceding the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany and German occupation of Paris. Military units and residents in Paris rose in revolt against the peace terms and the government that signed them. The Commune used captured stocks of the Napoleon-with-laurel-wreath stamps and printed 20c engraved Ceres stamps from captured plates. The Commune's postal service came into being on March 31, and the Commune was suppressed on May 28, leaving almost two months in which Parisian postmarks were those of the Commune.

Star formed by dots; large number in center: Near the end of the losange period, the star-and-number cancel came into use at Paris branch post offices. Any cancel that initially appears to be a GC cancel with a one or two digit number usually is a Paris star cancel. Figure 2 illustrates the star-with-number cancel.

A closing idiosyncracy--New Year's Day cancels: during the late 19th century, the major mail event was New Year's Day. This was the day when the French postal customer wanted mail delivered to all his or her friends, all of whom wanted the same thing. As yet there were no mechanical canceling machines, so all mail was canceled by hand. The result was that any available hand cancel was used by any available postal employee, meaning that there are Sage stamps with PC or GC cancels, with plain stars, with stars-with-numbers, and with other, uncommon cancellations. So there was one period each year when the French postal customer, Snoopy, got even with the French postal clerk, the harassed Red Baron.

Table 1: the seven stamp issues from 1849 through 1875 are listed at the top of the columns. The perforated Ceres issue is broken down into four columns to make it easier to understand. The rows are the nine common cancellations described and illustrated in this article. Any entry at the intersection of a row and column means that denomination of that column was commonly canceled with the cancellation of that row.

Thus in the Ceres Imperf column, there are six denominations. The grill was common on all six denominations, but the PC losange was common on only four--the 10c, 25c, 40c, and 1fr. The last four cancellations were not common on any denomination of the Ceres Imperf issue. ✉

	Ceres Imperf	Presidence	Napolean Imperf	Napoleon Perf	Napoleon: laurel wreath
Denomination	10, 15, 20, 25, 40, 1fr	10, 25	1, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40, 80, 1fr	1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80	1, 2, 4, 10, 20, 30, 40, 80, 5fr
Grill	All	10	1fr	—	—
Endless Grill	10, 15, 25, 40, 1fr	10	25, 1fr	—	—
Star of dots	10, 15, 25, 40, 1fr	All	All	5, 10, 20, 40, 80	4, 10, 20, 30, 40, 80, 5fr
Matrix of squares/dots	10, 15, 25, 40, 1fr	10	5, 25, 40, 80, 1fr	—	5fr
PC losange	10, 25, 40, 1fr	All	All	All	2, 4, 10, 20, 30, 40, 80, 5fr
Matrix of tiny dots	—	—	5, 80*	80	—
GC losange	—	—	1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 80*	5, 10, 20, 40, 80	All
CDS	—	—	1, 5, 10	All	All
Star & Number	—	—	—	5, 10, 20, 40, 80	4, 10, 20, 30, 40, 80, 5fr
* 1 franc is unpriced					
	Bordeaux	Ceres Perf (Siege)	Ceres Perf	Ceres Perf Small Numerals	Ceres Perf Large numerals
Denomination	1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 80,	10 bist, 20, 40	1, 2, 4, 5	10, 15, 25	10, 15, 30, 80
Star of dots	All	All	5	10, 15	All
PC losange	All	All	All	10, 15	10, 30, 80
GC losange	All	All	All	All	All
CDS	All	All	All	All	All
Star & number	All	All	5	All	10, 30, 80

Table 1.

Transcribing Sounds

by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC

BRAILLE ALPHABET: Recreational Facilities

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, CNIB, maintains the Lake Joseph Centre near MacTier, Ontario, known as the *Adjustment training and Holiday Centre for the Blind*. The program at the Centre is open to people of all ages who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind. It is open during the summer months and offers such activities as hiking through their winding trails, swimming, canoeing, water skiing, and land-based sports.

The purpose of all activities is to build self-confidence, social integration, overcome obstacles to independent living, provide inner strength and teach skills taken for granted by sighted people.

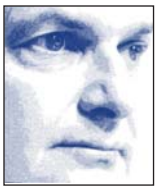


The project grew from a CNIB camping program and is financially supported by the Lions Club of Ontario. The Lions Club rented a church-owned camp at Ancaster, Ontario, for three weeks each summer in the years between 1956 and 1959. The camp consisted of a main lodge, a row of small cabins with the staff and director's cabins in the centre. The camp conducted outdoor games including swimming and crafts. The campers were able to earn a Red Cross swimming certificate. In the evening there was music, singing, campfires, and card games.

In 1960, the Lions, CNIB, and the Canadian Council of the Blind, CCB, purchased land from the T. MacDonald Family at Foot's Bay, Ontario. The property, developed around the 1880s, was part of the old CNR Steamship Line. The dock used today is the same one that was used for landing of steamships plying lakes Joseph, Rousseau, and Muskoka. The original family cottage is now the manager's home. An outdoor gazebo at the south-east point of the property was part of a hotel from 1884 to 1910 called Gorden House, renamed at some point, the Blackstone Hotel.

The postcard, of social nature, was mailed on August 11, 1975 from Windsor, Ontario to Simcoe, Ontario.





PRESIDENT'S page
la page du PRÉSIDENT

by / par Rick Penko

Who are we?

While checking the numerous e-mails I receive on a daily basis the question of "who are we" popped up on my computer screen. The query was in response to an enquiry sent to our National Office concerning the value of some early Canadian Elizabethan stamps.

The office promptly replied to the question and directed the writer to the appropriate stamp catalogue, to a local dealer, and suggested to contact one of our club Chapters for more information. Unfortunately, the response to the question was not met with satisfaction and a further question was posed: "if you can't tell me the value of a stamp, who is The RPSC and what is your purpose?"

Hmmm…, a very interesting question. Who is The RPSC? First off, we are not a stamp evaluation or expertising service. We leave that in the competent hands of Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association (CSDA) member dealers and specialized philatelists around the country.

Who we are is the National Philatelic Organization that promotes and fosters the hobby of stamp collecting in Canada. We are Canada's National Stamp Club, the voice of philately in Canada and a member of the international philatelic community (FIP).

The RPSC also maintains a National office to serve our members, our Chapters and the general public. We respond to every inquiry to the best of our knowledge and direct any unanswered questions to the proper source.

We produce a national magazine devoted to the hobby and made available to every member of The RPSC and to the collecting community both here at home and abroad.

The RPSC coordinates local Chapters around the country and provides these local clubs an opportunity to purchase affordable liability insurance.

Stamp circuit books are another service we offer to individuals and Chapters that, in turn, can be made available to their members.

We help in the coordination of national stamp shows by maintaining and supplying a pool of accredited judges for competitive philatelic exhibits.

Finally, The RPSC endeavours to preserve our hobby's future and keep it healthy for future generations.

So, if you have a guy with a beard on a red stamp…

Qui sommes-nous?

Alors que je lisais mes nombreux courriels quotidiens, la question « qui sommes-nous? » a surgi à l'écran. Elle faisait suite à une demande de renseignements que le Bureau national avait reçue au sujet de la valeur des premiers timbres élisabéthains.

Le bureau a rapidement répondu à la question en dirigeant son auteur vers le catalogue approprié, un négociant local, et lui a suggéré de prendre contact avec l'un de nos clubs membres pour obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires. Malheureusement, la réponse n'a pas été satisfaisante, ce qui a donné lieu à une autre question : « si vous ne pouvez pas me dire la valeur d'un timbre, qui est La SRPC et quelle est sa raison d'être? »

Humm…, une question très intéressante. Qui est La SRPC? Premièrement, nous ne sommes pas un service d'expertise ou d'évaluation. Nous remettons ce genre de tâches entre les mains compétentes de l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste (ACNTP), des membres-négociants et des philatélistes spécialistes un peu partout au pays.

Nous sommes l'organisation philatélique nationale qui promeut et favorise le passe-temps de la collection de timbres au Canada. Nous sommes le Club philatélique national du Canada, la voix de la philatélie au Canada et un membre de la communauté philatélique internationale (FIP).

La SRPC a aussi un Bureau national qui sert ses membres, ses clubs membres et le grand public. Nous répondons à chaque demande selon notre connaissance, sinon, nous donnons une source de renseignements appropriée.

Nous produisons une revue nationale dédiée à notre passe-temps, accessible à tous les membres et à tous les philatélistes, ici, et à l'étranger.

LA SRPC coordonne les clubs membres locaux partout au pays et leur fournit l'occasion de se procurer une assurance responsabilité à prix abordable.

Les livrets des circuits philatéliques sont un autre service que nous offrons aux particuliers et aux clubs membres, ce dont les membres individuels peuvent profiter en retour.

Nous aidons à coordonner les expositions nationales de timbres en maintenant et en fournissant un bassin de juges agréés pour les expos-concours.

En dernier lieu, La SRPC s'efforce de préserver l'avenir du passe-temps et de le maintenir en santé pour les générations futures.

Alors, si vous voyez un barbu sur un timbre rouge…

ROYALE*2008*ROYAL

Don't forget our upcoming 80th RPSC Convention in St. Foy, Quebec, on May 16 - 18, 2008. I look forward to meeting all our attending Quebec members as well as others planning to attend. For further information, visit our Website at www.royale2008.org/ See you there! ✉

ROYALE*2008*ROYAL

N'oubliez pas le 80e congrès annuel de La SRPC, à Sainte-Foy, Québec, du 16 au 18 mai 2008. Je suis impatient de rencontrer tous les membres de Québec qui seront présents et ceux d'ailleurs qui prévoient y assister. Pour davantage d'information, visitez notre site Web à l'adresse www.royale2008.org/ À bientôt! ✉

MEMBERSHIP report
Des nouvelles de nos MEMBRES

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ? Changes can be made on-line at www.rpsc.org "Members Login" or by contacting the National Office.
VOUS CHANGEZ D'ADRESSE? Effectuez le changement en ligne à www.rpsc.org "Members Login" ou en prenant contact avec le Bureau national.

NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

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

Les demandes d'adhésion ci-dessous ont été reçues et sont publiées en conformité avec la constitution. Si aucun commentaire n'est communiqué au Bureau national, (C.P. 929, Succursale Q, Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1) d'ici 30 jours, les adhérants seront acceptés comme membres.

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MESSAGES from the National Office
MESSAGES du Bureau national

by / par Peter Butler,
Director, National Office / directeur, Bureau national

One of the responsibilities of the National Office is to provide special resources for the membership. These resources should be seen as one of the benefits of being a member. Probably the most often requested resource has been the need for information about the disposition of collections and estate planning during a collector's lifetime and after the albums have been closed for the last time. And our website, until recently, suggested that the National Office had such resources. The truth is that we did not have the materials or the advice to pass on. That has now changed. To begin, we will be posting on the website before you receive this magazine two resources regarding the disposition of collections and suggestions about estate planning. The first is a short and concise article titled Planning Ahead by Joel Ruimy. Joel is a member of the North Toronto Stamp Club and a writer by profession who recently became concerned about his own mortality so we asked him to do a little research and write something to get readers thinking about the issues that haunt all of us about what should happen to our treasures.

The second resource is a more in-depth and longer paper on the same topic but with more details especially for collectors who have major investment-grade material. The paper is a collaborative effort by three members of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada (PSSC) who created the resource at the request of the Society's President Ralph Trimble. The PSSC has graciously agreed to allow The RPSC to post the paper on its website for its members as well. We sincerely thank the PSSC for allowing us to use this valuable document for the benefit of our membership.

As I write this directive, I am not sure of the directions as to how to find the two articles on the website but knowing the expertise of our webmaster Robin Harris I know you will be able to find them by looking for "Member Resources." Over the next few months, more articles will be posted on the website to complement the two fine papers already there. If you do not use the internet, send a request to the National Office with $2 in mint Canadian stamps and we will send you copies.

* * *

The National Office data base indicates that over 200 members have not yet responded to a renewal notice to pay their 2007 membership dues. Following up on these non-payments is time consuming and wastes RPSC funds at a time when our finances are

L'une des principales responsabilités du Bureau consiste à fournir des ressources spéciales aux membres. Ces ressources devraient être considérées comme l'un des avantages de l'adhésion. Ainsi, on nous demande souvent des renseignements sur la façon de disposer de ses collections et sur la planification successorale, tant pendant la vie d'un collectionneur que lorsque ses albums se ferment pour la dernière fois. Jusqu'à tout récemment, notre site Web laissait entendre que le Bureau national disposait de telles ressources. En vérité, nous n'avions ni la documentation nécessaire ni les conseils à donner. Mais, la situation a changé. Avant même que vous ne receviez le présent numéro du Philatéliste, deux ressources ayant trait à la disposition des collections et des suggestions sur la planification successorale seront affichées dans notre site. Premièrement, un article court et concis intitulé Planning Ahead, de Joel Ruimy, un écrivain professionnel, membre du North Toronto Stamp Club, qui a récemment réfléchi à sa propre condition de mortel. Nous lui avons demandé de faire une petite recherche et d'écrire quelque chose en vue d'encourager nos lecteurs à penser à un sujet qui nous hante tous quand nous songeons à ce qui pourrait arriver à nos trésors.

Deuxièmement, vous trouverez un article de fond, plus long, sur le même sujet, mais avec davantage de détails surtout pour ceux dont la collection constitue un investissement important. Il s'agit d'un effort collectif de trois membres de la Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada (PSSC), qui a créé la ressource à la demande de son président, Ralph Trimble. La PSSC a gracieusement accepté d'autoriser La SRPC à afficher l'article dans son site Web afin que ses membres aussi puissent en profiter. Nous remercions sincèrement la PSSC de nous avoir accordé cette permission.

Tout en rédigeant mon message, je ne suis pas certain de connaître la marche à suivre pour trouver les deux articles dans le site, mais connaissant l'expertise de notre webmestre, Robin Harris, je sais que vous pourrez les trouvez à la section des ressources pour les membres (Member Resources). Au cours des prochains mois, d'autres textes viendront s'y ajouter. Si vous n'utilisez pas Internet, faites une demande au Bureau national accompagnée de 2,00 $ de timbres canadiens neufs et nous vous enverrons une copie de ces articles.

* * *

Notre base de données indique que plus de 200 membres n'ont pas encore répondu à l'avis de paiement de leur renouvellement d'adhésion 2007. Faire le suivi de ces non-paiements prend beaucoup de temps et épuise les fonds de la SRPC à un moment où ses finances sont serrées au maximum. Si vous avez oublié de répondre, s'il vous plaît, faites-

stretched to the limit. If you have forgotten to respond to the renewal notice, please attend to it now and help to keep costs down. A letter will be sent out as a follow-up soon and if no response is received these valued members will, unfortunately, have to be dropped from the roll.

* * *

In the Jan./Feb. issue of *TCP*, we announced on page 49, that there would be a dues increase as of March 1st. Changes were also announced to the life, chapter, affiliate, family and subscription-only dues. Remember that for dues paid online, there will be no increase this year only.

* * *

Last year, the National Office made a commitment to the members to use commemorative, self-adhesive stamps on all outgoing mail. On January 17th, we began to use a new RPSC pictorial hand canceller courtesy of Canada Post, to cancel those commemorative stamps. To mark this auspicious occasion, we created special cacheted envelopes. They are franked with the new celebration stamps and hand-cancelled. If you would like one of these special celebration covers, send $2 in mint Canadian stamps to the National Office and we will send you one enclosed in a second envelope. Mark your request envelope, "special cover offer." ✉

le maintenant et aidez-nous à maintenir les coûts faibles. Une lettre de suivi sera bientôt envoyée aux retardataires et si nous ne recevons pas de réponse, malheureusement, et bien que nous les estimions, ces membres seront enlevés de la liste.

* * *

Le numéro de jan.-fév. *du PC* annonçait, en page 49, que les droits augmenteraient le premier mars. Des changements ont aussi été annoncés à l'égard des cotisations : à vie, familiales, abonnement seulement, clubs membres et clubs affiliés. N'oubliez pas que, cette année seulement, les droits payés en ligne ne seront pas touchés par l'augmentation.

* * *

L'année dernière, le Bureau national a promis aux membres d'utiliser des timbres commémoratifs autocollants sur tout le courrier sortant. Le 17 janvier, nous avons commencé à utiliser un nouvel oblitérateur manuel à l'effigie de La SRPC, offert par Postes Canada. Afin de souligner l'évènement, nous avons créé des enveloppes cachetées spéciales. Elles sont affranchies avec les nouveaux timbres célébration et oblitérées à la main. Si vous désirez obtenir l'un de ces plis spéciaux, faites-en la demande au Bureau national accompagnée de 2,00 $ de timbres canadiens neufs et nous vous enverrons le pli dans une deuxième enveloppe. Inscrivez sur l'enveloppe de votre demande « offre de pli spécial ». ✉

PHSC

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

The Postal History Society of Canada invites applications for membership.

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

The Annual Meeting is held in the spring, usually featuring a postal history seminar given by a Society member. Six different study groups are devoted to the detailed examination of various specialized aspects of postal history. Visit our website at www.postalhistorycanada.org for more information on the Society and study groups. Don't miss the Specialized interests section currently featuring Shipping Tables, for Canada's Pacific Maritime Mails, Selected Canadian Postage Rates, and a listing of New Post Offices in Canada since November 2001.

Membership dues are $25.00 per year in Canada.
For a membership application form please contact the Secretary,
Stéphane Cloutier, 255 Shakespeare St.
Ottawa, ON K1L 5M7 Canada
E-mail: cloutier1967@sympatico.ca

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April 26-27, **Calgary** - Calgary Philatelic Society, Kerby Centre

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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 1-888-285-4143 or e-mail to info@rpsc.org. 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 1-888-285-4143 ou par poste-électronique à info@rpsc.org. Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC.

REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

MARCH 1 MARS, 2008:
WINPEX 2008, Windsor, Ontario. 15 dealers, exhibits, free admission/parking, door prizes. Saturday, 10-5. Forest Glade Arena, 3205 Forest Glade Dr., Windsor, Ont. For additional information contact: David Newman lacumo@cogeco.ca

MARCH 8 MARS, 2008:
The Oakville Stamp Club's 45th Annual Show will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at St. Paul's United Church, 454 Rebecca Street, Oakville. Featuring 16 dealers, 3 table auctions, Hamilton and Oakville circuit books, and free parking. Breakfast and lunch available. Information from Bernd Duddeck at (905) 845-2326 or bpduddeck@cogeco.ca.

MARCH 15 MARS, 2008:
OXPEX/OTEX will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON. Featuring dealers, exhibits, youth area, prize draws, Canada Post and refreshments. Free admisison and parking. Information from David Ward, Co-show Chair at (519) 539-2221 or ward2221@rogers.com

MARCH 29 MARS, 2008:
KAPEX 2008 will be held 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, (just north of Lansdowne Street) Peterborough. Featuring exhibits, dealers, door prizes, children's prizes, club sales and auction. Free admission and plenty of parking. Information from Rick Stankiewicz at (705) 295-6158 or stankiewiczr@nexicom.net

APRIL 4-6 AVRIL, 2008:
The Lakeshore Stamp Club's annual exhibition LAKESHORE 2008 will be held at the Sarto Desnoyers Community Center, 1335, Lakeshore Drive, Dorval, QC, on April 4 – 6, 2008. Free admission and ample free parking. Over one hundred frames of competitive exhibition. Large dealer contingent (USA, Ontario, Quebec). Club bourses. Show covers and illustrated postmarks. Many door prizes. Snack bar on premises. Hours: Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: François Brisse (514) 697-2952. E-mail: fsbrisse@sympatico.ca / L'exposition de timbres annuelle LAKESHORE 2008 organisée par le Club philatélique Lakeshore se tiendra au Centre communautaire Sarto Desnoyers, 1335, Promenade Lakeshore, Dorval, QC, les 4, 5, et 6 avril 2008. Entrée gratuite et grand stationnement gratuit. Plus de cent cadres d'exposition compétitive. Nombreux négociants (États-Unis, Ontario et Québec). Plis souvenirs et oblitérations commémoratives. Tirage de prix de présence. Service de sandwichs et de boissons. Horaire: Vendredi et samedi: 10h00-18h00. Dimanche: 10h00-16h00. Information: François Brisse (514) 697-2952. Courriel: fsbrisse@sympatico.ca

APRIL 5 AVRIL, 2008:
Lonpex 116 will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Road, just north of Hwy 401 and Wellington Road interchange, London, ON. Stamp bourse with 12 dealers, London Philatelic Society's sales circuit. Free admisisoin and parking. Information from Don Slaughter at donslau@execulink.com

APRIL 11-13 AVRIL, 2008:
The CSDA's National Postage Stamp Marketplace and North Toronto Stamp Club's 65th Annual Exhibition will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto. Exhibits and dealers from Canada, UK and USA. Info from secretary@csdaonline.com or Geoff Ewing of the North Toronto Stamp Club at (416) 653-3954 or geoffewing@sympatico.ca

APRIL 19 AVRIL, 2008:
Stampfest, the Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society annual show and bourse will be held at the Community Christian Reformed Church 1275 Bleams Road, at Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener, Ontario. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring an exciting dealer bourse, competitive exhibits, including one-page entries, free parking, free admission, hourly and special draws, stamp pull, lunch counter, and other surprises. For additional information phone Jim Oliver at 1-519-893-4092 or e-mail:jimoliver10@hotmail.com.

MAY 2-4 MAI, 2008;
The Winnipeg Philatelic Society's Annual Bourse & Philatelic Exhibition - 2008 will be held at the Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3J 0C9. Free parking, 10+ dealers, exhibits, youth area, show cover and BNAPS/SCC seminars. Hours: Friday 1 pm - 8 pm, Saturday 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Information from Winnipeg Philatelic Society, Box 1425, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z1 or society's web site www.wps.mb.ca.

OCTOBER 17-19 OCTOBRE, 2008:
CSDA National Postage Stamp Marketplace will be at the Queen Elizabeth Building Exhibition Place, Toronto. Exhibits and dealers from Canada, UK and USA. Info from secretary@csdaonline.com

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

MARCH 28-30 MARS, 2008:
The Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show 2008 will be held in the West Edmonton Mall Fantasyland Conference Centre, 3rd floor Europa Boulevard rooms 5, 6, 15,16. Hours: Friday Noon - 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Exhibits, dealers, youth stamp room, circuit books, seminars, auction and banquet. For information contact Keith Spencer at (780) 437-1787 or at keithr.spencer@shaw.ca.

MAY 3-4 MAI, 2008:
ORAPEX 2008, Ottawa's National Stamp Show, the 47th Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse with over 40 dealers and 150 frames of exhibits, will be held at the RA Centre Curling Rink, Saturday May 3, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday May 4, 10 am to 4 pm. The address is RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON. Those wishing to exhibit should contact Tom Hare at thare@sutton.com. For bourse information please contact Stéphane Cloutier at cloutier1967@sympatico.ca. FREE admission and parking. Dick Malott, Publicity Officer at (613) 829-0280 or rmalott@magma.ca.

MAY 16-18 MAI, 2008:
ROYAL *2008* ROYALE: The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's 80th Annual Exhibition and Convention will be held at the Hotel Gouverneur, 3030 Boulevard Laurier, Ste. Foy, Québec. Information at www.royale2008.org.
Dates and locations for forthcoming years:
2009, St. Catharines, Ontario.
2010, Windsor, Ontario
2011, Montréal, Québec.

AUGUST 29-31 AOÛT, 2008:
BNAPEX+2008+NOVAPEX, the annual Convention of the British North America Philatelic Society, in Halifax, The host facility is The Lord Nelson Hotel, 1515 South Park Street, Halifax, NS B3J 2L2. General information may be obtained from Jack Forbes, (JAFRBS@aol.com) or Michael Peach (michael.peach@ns.sympatico), Dealer contact is Claude Michaud (jcm.ph@ns.sympatico.ca) and the Exhibits Chair is Gary Steele (gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca). The Convention is being held in conjunction with the Annual Exhibition of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

MARCH 20-22, MARS, 2009:
The Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show 2009. Details to follow at a later date.

MAY 2-3 MAI, 2009:
ORAPEX 2009, Ottawa. Details to follow at a later date.

MAY 1-2 MAI, 2010:
ORAPEX 2010, Ottawa. Details to follow at a later date.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

MAY 14-18 MAI, 2008:
Tel Aviv Israel. WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP "ISRAEL 2008" under F.I.P. patronage will include all 10 F.I.P. philatelic competitive classes, as well as World Stamp Championship competition. Israel Trade Fairs & Convention Center, Tel Aviv. Commissioner: Dr. Jan J. Danielski, 71 Gennela Square, Toronto, ON M1B 5M7. Tel: (416) 283-2047, e-mail: jjad@rogers.com.

JUNE 20-28 JUIN, 2008:
Bucharest Romania. EFIRO 2008 World Philatelic Exhibition under F.I.P. Auspices. Commissioner: Charles J. G. Verge FRPSC, FRPSL, PO Box 66, Stn "Q", Toronto, ON M4T 2L7. Tel: (647) 344-0446 and E-mail cjgverge@rogers.com

SEPTEMBER 12-14 SEPTEMBRE, 2008:
Prague, Czech Republic, PRAGA 2008 World Philatelic Exhibition, covering FIP Classes of Traditional Philately, Postal History, Philatelic Literature and the experimental class of One Frame Exhibits. Commissioner John McEntyre, 707-3495 Mountain Street, Montreal, QC, H3G 2A5. Tel: (514) 845-2938. E-mail: jgmcentyre@hotmail.com.

APRIL 10-16 AVRIL, 2009
CHINA 2009 World Philatelic Exhibition including all FIP classes. Commissioner: John G. McEntyre, 707-3495 Mountain Street, Montreal, QC, H3G 2A5. Tel: (514) 845-2938. E-mail: jgmcentyre@ hotmail.com

MAY 8-15 MAI, 2010:
LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1. Details at www.london2010.org.uk. Canadian commissioner: Dr. Jan J. Danielski, 71 Gennela Square, Toronto, ON M1B 5M7. Tel: (416) 283-2047, e-mail: jjad@rogers.com.

OCTOBER 1-10 OCTOBRE, 2010:
PORTUGAL 2010, Parque das Nações, Lisbon, Portugal. Commissioner Charles J. G. Verge FRPSC, FRPSL, PO Box 66, Stn "Q", Toronto, ON M4T 2L7. Tel: (647) 344-0446 and E-mail cjgverge@rogers.com.

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I WOULD LIKE to find someone that would be interested in loaning or selling me an old Unitrade Specialized or Scott Specialized Stamp Catalogue for Canadian Stamps from the late 80's. If anyone has such a catalogue, please contact John Lawryk at jlawryk@yahoo.com. *v59n02*

SANTA LETTERS or envelopes with H0H 0H0 return address. Any era. Buy or trade. Tony 519-745-2973, e-mail:tshaman@rogers.com or Box 43103, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9. *v59n03*

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USED, MIXED, 1,000 Canada Commemoratives, net $20. 1,000 small size regulars, net $7. C.W.O., postpaid, free price list. Patrick Cangley, 733 Terrill, A-2, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada J1E 1L8. Tel 819-562-8345 *v59n02*

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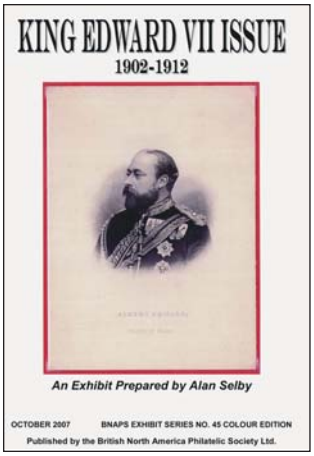
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KING EDWARD VII ISSUE 1902-1912

By Alan Selby. Spiral Bound, 2007, 166 pages 8.5x11. ISBN: 978-1-897391-18-1 (b&w) $36.95; 978-1-897391-17-4 (colour) $110.00. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society. Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus $2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order, add 10% in Canada, 15% to the US, 20% overseas. GST is payable for Canadian orders. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount. Available from: Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5A8, Canada. Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed at www.iankimmerly.com/books/

Alan Selby's King Edward VII Issue 1902-1912 is the latest exhibit to be featured in the British North America Philatelic Society Exhibits series. The spiral bound publication, as with others in this series, is available in full colour, and in black and white at a substantially lower price.

Even a cursory glance at the philatelic material pictured in this volume reveals why the exhibit has earned numerous Gold awards over the years: It includes virtually everything that a jury at the higher competitive levels could possibly want to see. Virtually every item in the 10-frame exhibit is a "show piece."

The 160 pages of exhibit material are divided into ten discrete categories to fit into ten exhibit frames of 16 pages each as follows: 1) Trade samples, essays, and die proofs, 2) Die proofs, officials and the 1902 provisional, 3) Plate inscriptions of the 1 and 2-Cent issues, 4) Plate inscriptions on the 2-Cent to the 50 Cent value, 5) Imperforates, precancels, and experimental printings, 6) Experimental coils, paper varieties, 7) The booklet, 8) Postal stationery, 9 & 10) Covers of the issue.

Each of the ten sections is replete with examples of outstanding material. The trade sample section, for instance, boasts a 4-pence essay in black on a thick, glazed card produced by De La Rue & Co. Also represented is a 1-pence essay in red on rosette-watermarked, horizontal wove paper. Nor are the De La Rue essays the only trade samples in the exhibit. Engraved examples by Perkins Bacon & Co., London, are presented in a variety of shades, as are essay die proofs sunk on large card stock.

No section of the issue is weak or underrepresented. If there is a weakness in this work it is in the publication itself rather than in the exhibit. Much of the depicted material is of a specialized nature and readers not familiar with the King Edward VII issue may find the lack of an index, introductory remarks, or a synopsis page a shortcoming. However this volume is not a handbook, it is a reproduced exhibit, and with that in mind, it fully meets its objective of bringing a visual representation of an outstanding exhibit to the attention of the wider philatelic community.

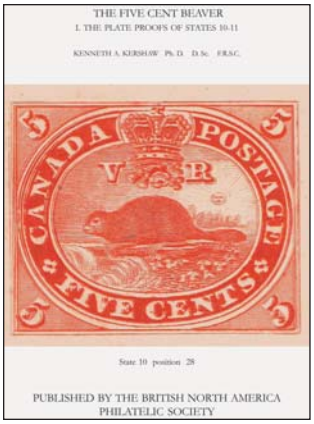
Readers can expect to be treated to an assortment of items, including foreign-destination covers, scarce rates, booklets, coils, roller cancels, precancels, and a host of similar material that one would expect to find only in a top rated exhibit. Anyone who has ever thought that they might never see the 50-cent denomination on a commercially used piece is in for a surprise: They will see it in this exhibit.

The exhibit is a textbook example of how traditional material can be displayed to earn a top award at the higher levels of our hobby. It is a publication that serves as an excellent substitute for readers unable to attend national and international shows to view exhibits in person. Equally important, books such as this give readers and prospective exhibitors ideas on how to go about improving their own exhibits for competition.

Collections reproduced in the BNAPS Exhibits Series can be examined and enjoyed at one's leisure without having to rush through the actual exhibits at stamp shows. And they save on having to crane one's neck or straining one's back.

These books, faithfully reproducing exhibits as they appeared on the floor of an exhibition, serve a useful purpose and deserve a wide distribution as an educational tool throughout the philatelic community.

Tony Shaman



THE FIVE CENT BEAVER I. THE PLATE PROOFS OF STATES 10-11

By Kenneth A Kershaw. 2007, Spiral Bound, 216 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-897391-15-0. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd. $136. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount. Shipping is extra. Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus $2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order, add 10% in Canada, 15% to the U.S., 20% overseas. GST is payable for Canadian orders. BNAPS books are available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A8, Canada; Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed via www.iankimmerly.com/books/

This work by Dr. Kershaw builds on the plating studies of the Five Cent Beaver stamp begun by the late Senator J.A. Calder and Geoffrey Whitworth. But with the aid of modern computer and imaging technology, the author has taken his research, published in two volumes, much beyond that of his predecessors.

Volume 1 looks at the plate proofs of printing states 10 and 11. What today's powerful desktop computers, accompanied by optical scanning devices, have enabled plating enthusiasts to accomplish is to "blow up" images to a size that reveals the most minute of print detail for comparisons and study. For example, Kershaw scanned each position of every plate proof that he examined at 1,200 dots per square inch. That is a lot of dots and concomitant detail on a piece of paper measuring one inch by one inch.

Kershaw's work dwarfs what was accomplished by Calder and Whitworth, who hand sketched their work as they did not have the technology available that we today take for granted. Diagrams and notes from Senator Calder's research, initially displayed in his competitive exhibit that he entered in the Philatelic Exhibition, New York, in 1926, are reproduced in Kershaw's Volume II, reviewed next in this issue.

Plating the 5-cent Beaver stamps was a task that the author had nearly given up. In the book's Introduction, Kershaw states: "I abandoned the task as impossible without a lifetime's devotion to these stamps." His interest, however, was rekindled when he was loaned two plate proof sheets to scan. The two sheets, it turned out, were states 10 and 11, the last two printings of this stamp.

Each of the scans is reproduced in the colour of the stamp and includes the previously identified constant print flaws and Kershaw's numerous newly discovered varieties and re-entries. The work looks at each of the 100 stamps of states 10 and 11 sheets. Many of Kershaw's new discoveries were not noted by Calder or Whitworth, probably because they did not have access to the technology available today or perhaps because they were not aware of the existence of states 10 and 11 material.

Captions are included to augment and clarify engraving or re-entry anomalies for each pictured stamp image. Images in the book are presented sequentially starting with position 1 and ending with stamp position 100, alternating between stamp sheets A and B. For positions where the stamp cannot be plated, the depicted image is identified as such.

This work is a picture presentation of the 200 stamps from printing states 10 and 11 of each flaw and where on the stamp it is located.

For anyone with even the slightest interest in identifying the printing varieties and re-entries appearing on these stamps this book is invaluable; for serious students of the stamp, it is an absolute necessity.



THE FIVE CENT BEAVER II. PLATING THE MORE NOTABLE VARIETIES AND RE-ENTRIES

By Kenneth A. Kershaw. 2007, Spiral Bound, 332 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-897391-16-7. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd. $197.00. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. Shipping is extra. Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus $2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order, add 10% in Canada, 15% to the US, 20% overseas. GST is payable for Canadian orders. BNAPS books are available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A8, Canada; Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed via http://www.iankimmerly.com/books/

Kenneth Kershaw's latest work, a companion publication to Book I reviewed previously in this issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, is particularly remarkable for two reasons. It reproduces the original diagrams from the 1939 publication "Some Phases of the Canada '59 issue" by the late J.A. Calder, dealing with the Five Cent Beaver stamp. Secondly, Kershaw had access to the original notes and photos from the estate of the late Clayton Huff. Much of Huff's work formed the basis of research subsequently carried on by Geoffrey Whitworth.

We should not underestimate the work of Calder and Whitworth and, indeed, Kershaw dedicates his book to these two plating pioneers. "They gave us a remarkably detailed analysis of the entire 11 states of this production and as a result provided endless hours of enjoyment for innumerable philatelists," writes Kershaw in the dedication of his book.

The importance of the work by Calder and Whitworth notwithstanding, Kershaw's research propels our knowledge about the plate varieties that exist on the 5-cent Beaver stamps to a level not dreamed of by earlier researchers.

With the generous loan of material from a number of individuals, Kershaw was able to identify numerous re-entries and major varieties on each of the stamps' 11 printing states. The images reproduced in this publication are the result of that research.

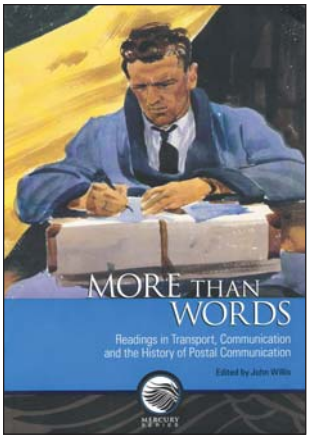
The first 22 pages of the book illustrate a number of plating aids such as guide dots, examples of short transfers as well as a good number of previously unrecorded re-entries and varieties. Most of the images are hugely expanded for ease of viewing. This illustrated section is followed by a three-page comprehensive index listing the specific position for each of the 100 stamps comprising the 100 stamp sheet. Also included in these Contents pages is a listing of plating criteria for identifying print flaws, re-entry patterns found in various locations on the different stamp positions and the so-called "sun-flaw" criteria. A list of references found in BNAPS *Topics* (sic) complements the Contents pages.

Included in this work are some re-entry and variety examples of states 10 and 11 also illustrated in Volume I.

Although the stamp varieties reproduced on the 300-plus pages of this publication are a significant number, the author points out that not nearly all re-entries are recorded. He strongly suggests that an "Addendum" of the missing varieties needs to be produced. Plating aficionados will no doubt agree.

Although Volume II is the companion publication of Volume I, each one stands on its own. Volume II is a work that is unreservedly recommended for all collectors with an interest in the Five Cent Beaver stamps as well as for collectors wishing to gain additional expertise in learning to plate the 11 states of this stamp.

Tony Shaman



MORE THAN WORDS - READINGS IN TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATION AND THE HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATION

Edited by John Willis 2007. Mercury Series, Canadian Postal Museum 5; ISBN 978-0-660-19696-1, Price $39.95. Soft cover, 382 pages.

More Than Words is a collection of 21 essays in English and French plus a 14-page introduction by the book's editor. An insightful epilogue by Meg Ausman, Chief Historian, United States Postal Service, complements the wide-ranging postal history monographs by the various authors. Eight of the 21 articles are published in French and the remaining 13 are in English.

Overriding themes throughout the publication are postal communications in a variety of written forms such as, for example, interpersonal communications, the printed word dealing with contractual obligations of one sort or another, post office infrastructures, and so on. Included in the book are a number of illustrations, maps, and photographs.

The book is divided into four main sections: 1) The Post; 2) Epistolary Practice and Culture; 3) People and Their Letters; 4) Communication and Transport. Each heading is shown in English and French. Although titles of individual articles are monolingual, each piece has an abstract in the language other than the one in which the work is presented; that is, English articles include an abstract in French and French articles include an English abstract.

Part One of the book consists of postal history studies during the French Ancien Régime period; that is, the era before the French Revolution of 1789, to the beginning of the 21st century. How the mail was handled before the introduction of commonly used postmarks, and long before adhesive postage stamps saw the light of day, will be of interest to, and may surprise, many readers.

Parts Two and Three have a greater emphasis on the written word. For instance, how do secret wartime messages in a letter elude enemy spies? How does one go about outwitting these lurking spies? On a less serious note, we learn that what writers said was very often of less concern than how they said it. These are just some of the fascinating topics covered by a number of authors.

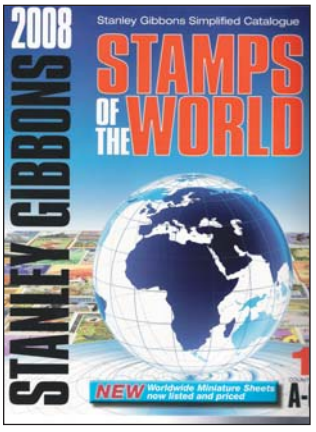
The Royal Tour across Canada by their Majesties in 1939 was commemorated in a number of ways. Newspaper and magazine articles and special postmarks on attractively designed covers are just some of the ways that the historic event was documented. In Part Four, readers learn how radio was used by broadcasters to publicize the tour of the royal couple just months prior to outbreak of World War II. Besides investigating the role played by the radio, a relatively modern invention, one article looks at how long-distance communications were effectively carried out in the New World in the 16th century.

Although the essays are scholarly in their approach, no specific postal history or advanced philatelic knowledge on the part of readers is assumed. The monographs are aimed at, and tailored for, general readers. Essays are adequately footnoted with an extensive bibliography for readers wishing to delve more deeply into a particular subject. For example, three references by the editor in his introduction deal with quotes from *Empire and Communications* (1972) and "*Media in Ancient Empires*," *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society* by Harold Innis. Innis is generally acknowledged as Canada's first student of economic history.

The essays comprising this anthology illustrate that the post office was instrumental in exchanging "more than words," as the title of this publication indicates. It is a work that will appeal to historians, particularly postal historians, philatelists with a special interest in postal history material, and stamp collectors in general wishing to expand their knowledge about their hobby.

Although individuals with a command of both English and French enjoy an advantage in reading these essays, the abstracts accompanying each submission help make this a work that will appeal to French-and English-speaking individuals alike.

Tony Shaman



STANLEY GIBBONS SIMPLIFIED CATALOGUE - STAMPS OF THE WORLD, 2008 EDITION, VOLUMES 1-5

ISBN 10: 085259-657-X; 085259-658-8; 085259-659-6; 085259-661-8; 085259-662-6 (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH). Laminated soft cover; 230X288 mm. Retail price 44.95 British pounds each. Orders can be placed by telephone:01425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

As with earlier editions of these five worldwide catalogues, the *2008 Stanley Gibbons Simplified Catalogues - Stamps of the World*, first published in 1934, have incorporated a number of new features. For one, there is a new cover design. In addition, more than 10,400 new stamp listings have been added in these five latest editions. And, as might be expected, thousands of stamps have been repriced, including those of the British Commonwealth and Empire 1840-1970, Austria, China, Denmark, Mexico, Russia and Uruguay. Nearly all of the few black-and-white illustrations that remained in the 2007 editions have been eliminated and as a consequence very few non-colour illustrations remain. Another new feature is the listing of all miniature sheets, fully priced.

As a basic stamp catalogue these volumes are undoubtedly targeted at general country and thematic collectors, and as such would have benefited from a subject index. The efficacy of such an index notwithstanding, each individually listed illustration includes a description of historical, geographical, political, and similar information for the benefit of collectors of specific topics.

The five catalogues are divided by groups of countries in alphabetical order as follows: Volume #1, A-C (1,089 pages of illustrations); #2, D-H (872 pages); #3, I-M (1,040 pages); #4, N-R (712 pages); and #5, S-Z (1,032 pages).

Each of the five volumes contains an index of listed countries, in alphabetical order, as well as cross-references to countries listed in each of its four companion volumes.

Five pages of "Information for users" is a thoughtful touch aimed at making users feel comfortable with these catalogues. And, for the most part, the publishers have succeeded. An outline of the catalogue's scope, for example, tells users the type of material that they can expect to find listed. Equally important, it includes a list of items that are not included, such as fiscal, revenue, local, private, telegraph, phantom, railway, and perforated initial stamps.

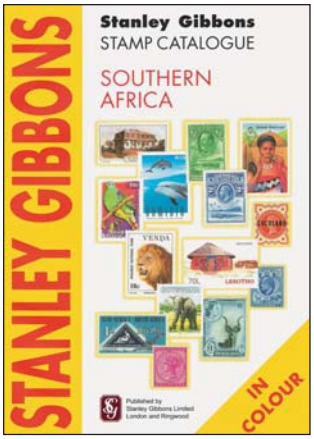
Because the publisher is also a stamp retailer, the listed prices are indicative of what a purchaser can expect to pay for a stamp in fine condition. Unfortunately, these catalogues do not illustrate or define the term "fine" as, for example, the publisher does in its series of individual countries catalogues. A clear understanding of what is meant by fine, very fine, and so on, could only facilitate a better understanding between buyer and seller.

Although these Simplified Stamps of the World Catalogues are not as comprehensive as are the publisher's individual country catalogues, they are totally adequate for collectors for whom they were designed: general, thematic, and world-wide philatelists.

Bound in linen-look laminated covers, these catalogues appear durable and will undoubtedly protect their contents for their practical lifetime and beyond.

These now virtually all-colour catalogues, professionally designed and printed, are a quality product that we have no hesitation in recommending for use by thematic or topical collectors as well as general collectors with an interest in the stamps of the world, in the stamps of only a single country or set of countries, or in a specific era or eras.

Tony Shaman



STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE SOUTHERN AFRICA, 2007

(5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH) ISBN: 0-85259-654-5; ISBN 13:978-0-85259-654-8. Glossy, limp bound, square backed cover, 144 pages; 220X297mm. Retail price 19.95 British pounds. Telephone orders: +44(0) 1425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

The 2nd edition of the *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Southern Africa*, similar to other price lists in this series, is an all-colour publication. Although its print size is small, it is, nevertheless, crisp and easily readable. As suggested by the catalogue's title this publication contains a listing of more than the stamps of South Africa – a nation rather than merely a geographic region at the southern tip of Africa.

As a group, the postage stamps of South Africa consist of a number of stamp-issuing republics and former British colonies including, besides the Union of South Africa, Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand West, Natal, New Republic, Orange Free State, Transvaal and Zululand. Also listed under the South Africa section are the stamps of Great Britain that were used, and consequently postmarked, by the British Army Field Offices during the South African War, 1899 - 1902.

Because the publisher also retails many of the listed stamps, the catalogue includes an eight-page introduction that provides readers with information including stamp prices, the firm's guarantee policy, its definition of a stamp's condition, and philatelic information of a technical nature. Of particular value to collectors are the illustrated examples of cancellations, centering, gum, and margins for each of the five categories that the firm uses to grade its stamps: poor, average, fine, very fine, and superb. Only prices for mint and used stamps are listed.

The catalogue's three-page 'International Philatelic Glossary' will be useful for collectors using a foreign-language catalogue or for non-English-speaking collectors.

Although considered a One-Country catalogue, an index or table of contents listing the various pre-Union issues would, nevertheless, have been useful.

As with the other catalogues in the publisher's One-Country series, its prices and listings are at a level similar in detail to those contained in the British Commonwealth Part 1 catalogue. Its listings encompass the stamps from SG No. 1 to those released in late 2006.

In addition to the issues included under the South Africa section of the catalogue, it also includes the stamps of the Homelands issue of Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and Venda. Also listed are Botswana (Bechuanaland), Lesotho (Basutoland), Namibia (South West Africa), and Swaziland.

Prices up to 1970 were taken from the 2008 edition of the *Commonwealth and Empire Stamp Catalogue*; subsequent issues were specially priced for this new publication.

Priced at a reasonable £19.95, this publication is a good investment for collectors specializing in the stamps and postmarks of the stamp-issuing countries and postal administrations of southern Africa, as well as for philatelists looking to expand their collecting horizons.

Tony Shaman

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in my OPINION
a mon AVIS

by Kevin O'Reilly

Philately From Afar: Tales From Yellowknife

When the editor asked me to contribute an opinion piece for *The Canadian Philatelist* it did not take me long to accept. I thought I might provide a perspective on being a philatelist in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to show that anyone can find ways to contribute to the hobby, wherever life takes you.

When I moved to Yellowknife on December 15, 1985 I was a serious collector of NWT postal history. I started collecting stamps of the world as a kid, then Canada and finally the Centennial definitives. Then in 1972 I sent away a set of self-addressed envelopes to all the post offices in the NWT and Yukon. I got so interested in seeing what came back that I made up my mind then and there that I would have to visit and perhaps even move there one day. Sure enough, it was the hobby that brought me here.

Yellowknife is the capital of the NWT and had 12,000 people when I arrived. Now it is almost 20,000. There were a few other collectors in town but none really that shared my interest or passion. We tried to start a club but no one really wanted to take a leadership role and I was leaving for about a year of world traveling and volunteer work. How else to keep up one's interest and involvement in the hobby?

I first learned how to use a computer that first Christmas holiday while in Yellowknife and wrote my book on NWT postal markings over those couple of weeks after spending many weeks at the National Archives (now called the Library and Archives of Canada) in Ottawa where I lived before I went north.

Small town media are always looking for stories and if you are the least bit outgoing, it is usually quite easy to get a media person to cover your hobby and interests at least once. I've done local newspaper, magazine, radio and television interviews on the hobby and my interests. I've also written for the local media and the philatelic press, including several journals.

In February each year there is heritage week across the country. One year the theme was transportation so I volunteered to put together an exhibit on the history of Yellowknife. The Edmonton Stamp Club very kindly agreed to loan a few exhibit frames that were brought up on the 20-hour drive by Canada Post. We set them up in the foyer of City Hall and they received a lot of attention from residents and the workers. Little did I know that I would soon join the ranks of City Council for a nine-year stint that recently ended.

With my work in Yellowknife and vacationing in various parts of Canada, I have been fortunate to be able to visit some outstanding historical research centres and archives, including the Anglican Archives in Toronto, the world famous Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg, The Rooms-Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador in St. John's and, of course, the Library and Archives of Canada in Ottawa. Most of these facilities now have tremendous resources on-line so you can often order it up ahead of time and find what you want to look at in person.

For anyone who is the least bit interested in Canadian stamps and postal history, a visit to Ottawa to see the resources available at the Library and Archives of Canada is essential. ArchiviaNet allows you to search for key words across the entire holdings (see http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/index-e.html). Put in a name from a fascinating cover and a place and you never know what might turn up. There are records relating to almost every aspect of Canadian postal service – postage stamps, post office histories, postage due, airmail, censorship, and much more.

The Internet itself has evolved tremendously over the last few years. Thorough searches have turned up amazing references for my Northern Postal History collection, many of which I can borrow through our public library at no cost.

When I do get to stamp shows, I will often bring an exhibit and/or give a talk on some aspect of northern postal history. This is very easy now with the advent of user-friendly presentation software and scanning. I have found fellow collectors are usually eager to share their expertise in these and other areas simply for the asking.

Why do I do all of this? In some ways it is easier and quite fascinating to organize little bits of paper than to make sense of what may seem to be a rather chaotic world at times. Through the study of stamps and postal history one can learn so much about people, history, transportation, geography, culture and any other topic one cares to learn about. Even from a place as remote as Yellowknife it is possible to pursue ones hobby, interest others, and give something back to our great hobby. ✉

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