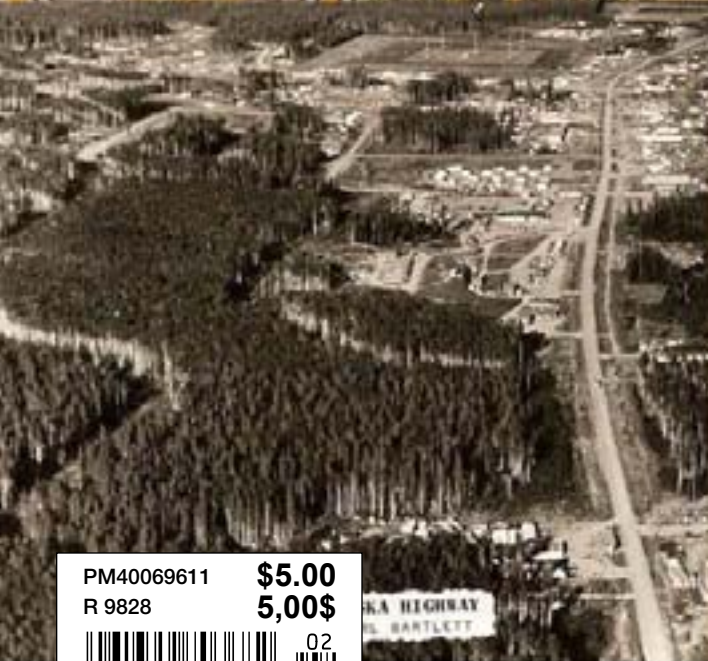


# The CANADIAN PHILATELIST Le PHILATÉLISTE CANADIEN

March/April 2016 mars/avril - VOL. 67 • NO. 2



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## They Won the Fight For the Right to Vote

### Centennial of Women's Suffrage

Canada Post marks International Women's Day 2016 with a tribute to the Canadian women who fought and won the right to vote a century ago. Some Canadian women had advocated the women's suffrage as early as the 1870s. But it was the final push by Nellie McClung and other members of the Manitoba Political Equality League that finally won women the right to cast ballots in Manitoba in 1916, followed quickly by Saskatchewan and Alberta. They were granted the vote in other provinces and nationally over the succeeding years.

## Elles ont remporté la lutte pour obtenir le droit de vote


### Centenaire du droit de vote des femmes


Postes Canada souligne la Journée internationale de la femme 2016 en rendant hommage aux femmes canadiennes qui ont lutté pour obtenir le droit de vote, il y a cent ans. Des femmes d'ici ont préconisé ce droit dès les années 1870. Mais ce sont les efforts ultimes de Nellie McClung et d'autres membres de la Manitoba Political Equality League qui ont permis aux femmes de voter au Manitoba en 1916. Elles ont rapidement été suivies par celles de la Saskatchewan et de l'Alberta. Les femmes obtiendront le droit de vote dans d'autres provinces et au fédéral au cours des années suivantes.




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An invitation to join...  
Joignez-vous à...

## 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.

**PERSONAL COLLECTION 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.

**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.

**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.

**RPSC WEBSITE** - The Society has a Web site [www.rpssc.org](http://www.rpssc.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 Website 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 CORPORATION** - The Society maintains a Canada Post Liaison Officer to represent the Society, its members and chapters. Members may raise issues of mutual interest with Canada Post Corporation through the National Office.

### Join The RPSC!

- ADVICE ON DISPOSAL OF COLLECTIONS
- THEFT PROTECTION NETWORK
- LIVE TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH NATIONAL OFFICE
- OPPORTUNITIES TO EXHIBIT AT OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION AND INTERNATIONALLY
- ACCESS TO THE V. G. GREENE PHILATELIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIBRARY IN TORONTO
- THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE AT OUR AGM, AND TO HOLD ELECTED OFFICE

La Société royale de philatélie du Canada (SRPC) est le digne successeur de l'organisation 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 voici quelques-uns:

**LE PHILATÉLISTE CANADIEN** - Cette publication bimestrielle, primée au niveau international, offre aux membres des informations et des nouvelles sur le monde philatélique 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** - Un congrès annuel se tient dans différentes parties du pays. Une exposition de niveau national fait partie intégrante du congrès 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.

**ASSURANCE COLLECTION PERSONNELLE** - 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 le club et les événements 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 constituent un réseau où les membres de La SRPC reçoivent un accueil chaleureux. Les renseignements sont publiés dans *Le philatéliste canadien*.

**SITE WEB DE LA SRPC** - La SRPC a un site Internet [www.rpssc.org](http://www.rpssc.org) où les membres obtiennent les informations à date, les événements philatéliques à venir et peuvent accéder à plusieurs autres sites philatéliques. Vous pouvez, en tant que membre, y ajouter vos adresses courriel et site web.

**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).

**SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES POSTES** - La SRPC a un agent de liaison pour représenter La Société, ses Chapitres et ses membres. Les membres peuvent soumettre des questions d'intérêt commun aux deux Sociétés. Vous pouvez également obtenir des renseignements auprès du Bureau national.

### Devenez membre La SRPC

- CONSEILS SUR LA FAÇON DE DISPOSER D'UNE COLLECTION
- RÉSEAU DE PROTECTION ANTIVOL
- CONTACT TÉLÉPHONIQUE EN PERSONNE AVEC LE BUREAU NATIONAL
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# ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA



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For information on a Life Membership, please contact the National Office.

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The information on this form will only be used for communication purposes from The RPSC National Office and the executive and its officers. The Society publishes the name of each applicant in *The Canadian Philatelist*, to seek any objections from the membership. Your membership information will never be sold or traded to advertisers. If you have any questions, please contact the National Office at 1-888-285-4143.

Les renseignements contenus dans le présent formulaire seront utilisés à seule fin de communication par le Bureau national de la SRPC, les directeurs de la Société et ses représentants. La Société publie le nom de chaque personne qui fait une demande d'adhésion dans *Le Philatéliste canadien* afin que les membres puissent exprimer leur objection, le cas échéant. Ces renseignements ne seront jamais vendus ou transmis à des publicitaires. Si vous avez des questions, veuillez vous adresser au Bureau national au 1-888-285-4143

I will act in accordance with The RPSC Code of Ethics (The Code of Ethics can be found on the website: [www.rpsc.org](http://www.rpsc.org))

Je m'engage à adhérer au Code d'éthique de la SRPC (publié dans le site Web de La SRPC : [www.rpsc.org](http://www.rpsc.org))

Signature

Date

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### THE COVER / PAGE COUVERTURE:

Fort Nelson, BC, has a history that goes back over 200 years to 1805 when the North West Company set up a trading post where the town is currently located. Given the town's long history, readers' curiosity would not be amiss if they wondered why all the images pictured on the journal's front page show only relatively recent-vintage Fort Nelson covers. The oldest pictured cover dates from 1942.

Author David Piercey provides the answer to this question and others that readers might have about the history of this far-northern community in his well-researched article beginning on page 101.

L'histoire de Fort Nelson, C.-B., remonte à plus de 200 ans, soit 1885, quand la North West Company établit un poste de traite là où la ville est actuellement située. Les lecteurs qui, compte tenu de la longue histoire de cette ville, se demanderont pourquoi la page couverture ne comporte que des images de plis de Fort Nelson d'une époque relativement récente ne feront cependant pas preuve d'une curiosité incongrue. Le plus ancien de ces plis est de 1942.

L'auteur, David Piercey, traite de cette question et d'autres que les lecteurs pourraient se poser sur l'histoire de cette collectivité du Grand Nord, dans un article bien documenté, qui commence à la page 101.

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## EDITOR'S notes



## notes du RÉDACTEUR

RPSC news

by / par Tony Shaman, FRPSC

nouvelles SRPC

Readers will undoubtedly have noticed that for the past several years the November/December editions of your journal have been dedicated to themes related to Christmas. Should issues for other months of the year also be dedicated to a particular theme? Perhaps one or two additional editions of the journal could be built around specific themes. For example, could the issue leading up to November have a Remembrance Day theme?

Military and prisoner of war correspondence are popular collecting fields and our Society may well have members pursuing these specialties who might appreciate an issue devoted to these areas. However, it may be that our Society does not have a sufficiently large membership to generate the requisite number of articles to turn this idea into reality. But, I would love to be proven wrong. If you are willing to put pen to paper and write up your military or prisoner of war collection, I would be more than happy to assemble these pieces and devote our next September/October issue to this theme.

However, I do believe that there is another area of collecting that is sufficiently popular, and broadly based, to generate the requisite number of articles to justify dedicating an issue to that theme. The theme that I am referring to is philatelic firsts: first issues, first day covers, first perforations, first booklets, first multi-coloured stamps, first officials, first use of perforated initials, first reported print error and on and on and on. And when you venture into areas such as the first stamp issued to commemorate a specific topic, the list becomes almost endless. For example, the country that issued the first stamp depicting an automobile, or the first bird, or the first cat, dog, eyeglasses – well, you get the picture.

When we venture into classical philately such as first postmarks, a topic that has been written about and documented for probably the past 100 years, there are still new finds being made to extend the idea of “firsts” even further. If postmarks or cancellation devices is your specialty, why not share it with fellow readers? They will thank you for it. I believe that the topic of “firsts” is an idea that could gain traction. What do you think of the idea of dedicating the first issue of your journal for 2017 to “philatelic firsts?”

Les lecteurs ont sûrement remarqué que ces dernières années, les numéros de novembre-décembre de notre revue étaient consacrés à des thèmes de Noël. Les numéros d'autres mois de l'année devraient-ils aussi aborder un thème spécifique? Un ou deux numéros supplémentaires de la revue pourraient peut-être graviter autour de thèmes particuliers. Par exemple, celui qui précède le mois de novembre pourrait porter sur le jour du Souvenir.

La correspondance des militaires et des prisonniers de guerre est un domaine de collection populaire et il est fort probable que certains membres de notre société qui s'adonnent à cette spécialité seraient heureux qu'elle soit traitée dans l'un de nos numéros. Toutefois, nous ne comptons peut-être pas assez de membres pour produire le nombre d'articles nécessaires à la concrétisation d'une telle idée. J'aimerais cependant que l'on me donne tort. Alors, si vous êtes prêts à prendre la plume pour rédiger un texte sur votre collection dans ce domaine, je serais ravi de rassembler vos articles afin de dédier notre prochain numéro de septembre-octobre à votre spécialité.

Je crois toutefois qu'il existe un autre domaine de collection assez populaire et assez généralisé pour générer un nombre d'articles justifiant un numéro spécial. Je songe aux « premiers philatéliques » : premières émissions, plis premier jour, premières perforations, premiers livrets, premiers timbres multicolores, premiers officiels, les premières utilisations d'initiales perforées, la première erreur d'impression signalée, etc. Et si nous nous hasardons dans des domaines, comme le premier timbre émis pour commémorer un sujet particulier, la liste devient presque sans fin. Par exemple, le pays ayant émis le premier timbre représentant une automobile ou le premier oiseau, le premier chat, le premier chien, les premières lunettes — bref, vous voyez le tableau.

Lorsque nous abordons la philatélie classique, comme les premières oblitérations, un sujet traité et documenté sans doute depuis les 100 dernières années, nous faisons encore de nouvelles découvertes qui repoussent les limites de l'idée de « premiers ». Si le matériel d'oblitération est votre spécialité, pourquoi ne pas communiquer vos connaissances à vos compagnons? Ils vous en remercieront. Je crois que le sujet des « premiers » est une idée qui pourrait faire des adeptes. Que diriez-vous de l'idée de consacrer le premier numéro de votre revue de 2017 aux « premiers philatéliques »?

Dans le présent numéro, nous publions un article de Frank Alusio sur les entiers postaux, un domaine de col-



In this issue, we feature an article by Frank Alusio dealing with postal stationery, a collecting specialty popular with many philatelists. What is particularly noteworthy about the author's research is that his story begins more than 360 years ago during the era when King Louis XIV ruled France.

David Piercey looks at the postal history of Fort Nelson, BC - whose origin dates back more than 200 years - and the important role it played in the potential defense of North America during the World War II years. Fort Nelson was also the base for 1,300 U.S. Army construction workers, the 35th Combat Engineer Regiment that built the Alaska Highway, originally known as the Alcan Military Road that connects Fairbanks, Alaska, via Canada, to the lower U.S. mainland.

Twenty-three Canadians have been awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize. Postage stamps have been issued to honour some of these outstanding individuals, including Alice Munro (literature 2013), Michael Smith (chemistry 1993), John Polányi (chemistry 1986), Gerhard Herzberg (chemistry 1971), Lester Pearson (peace 1957), Sir Frederick Banting (physiology or medicine 1923), and Lord Rutherford (chemistry 1908). To learn more about these and the other Canadian Nobel Prize winners, see the article by Michael Peach beginning on page 90.

We hope that you will enjoy reading these and the other articles in this issue of your journal. ☒

lection populaire auprès de nombreux philatélistes. Un point particulièrement digne de mention de la recherche de l'auteur est que l'histoire commence il y a plus de 360 ans à l'époque où Louis XIV régnait sur la France.

Quand à David Piercey, il se penche sur l'histoire postale de Fort Nelson, en C.-B., dont l'origine remonte à plus de 200 ans. Il s'intéresse également au rôle important de ce fort pour la défense potentielle de l'Amérique du Nord durant les années de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Fort Nelson servait aussi de base à 1 300 travailleurs de la construction de l'armée des États-Unis, le 35e Régiment du génie de combat, qui a construit l'autoroute de l'Alaska, originellement connue sous le nom d'Alcan Military Road et qui relie Fair Bank, en Alaska, aux basses terres continentales des États-Unis, par le Canada.

Vingt-trois Canadiens ont reçu le prestigieux prix Nobel et des timbres ont été émis pour honorer certains de ces êtres d'exception, notamment, Alice Munro (littérature 2013), Michael Smith (chimie. 1993), John Polányi (chimie, 1986), Gerhard Herzberg (chimie, 1971), Lester Pearson (paix, 1957), sir Frederick Banting (physiologie ou médecine, 1923) et lord Rutherford (chimie 1908). Pour en apprendre davantage sur ces récipiendaires canadiens du prix Nobel et sur les autres, voyez l'article de Michael Peach, qui commence à la page 90.

Nous espérons que ces articles ainsi que les autres que vous trouverez dans ce numéro de votre revue sauront vous plaire. ☒

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## IN THE MAILBOX DANS LA BOÎTE AUX LETTRES

### DEAR EDITOR,

I'm writing to advise that I recently contributed to a local website with Gold Coast, mainly showing my Exhibit of 80 pages of Victorian period.

It is "housed" with other contributions supporting philately on the Victoria stamp club's website at [www.vicstamps.com](http://www.vicstamps.com).

*The Canadian Philatelist* is linked through this website, and my list of publications on Gold Coast subjects includes references to all seven of my *TCP* articles on Gold Coast, which I'm hoping folks can access through your website.

A number of other displays on this website may interest philatelists. I love books and paper, but web publication is a very efficient way of sharing information.

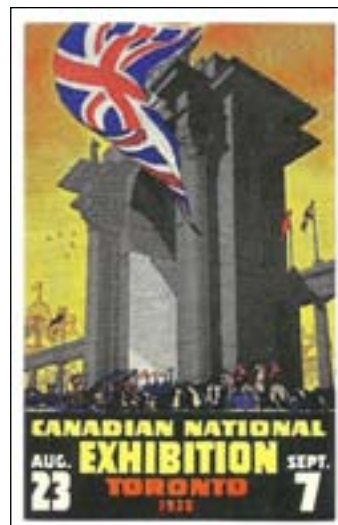
Sincerely,  
Peter Newroth,  
Victoria, BC.

### DEAR EDITOR,

I've recently seen Lane Robson's excellent article on the Canadian National Exhibition in *The Canadian Philatelist* and thought your readers would be inter-

ested in another CNE cinderella stamp that has just recently come to my attention. It was issued in 1935 and features a beautiful colour image of the Princes' gates in a stunning sunset sky. It measures 42 x 66 mm. The image is shown on the right.

Best regards,  
Ronald G. Lafreniere  
Verdun, Quebec,  
Canada



### DEAR EDITOR,

What a wonderful article in the January/ February, 2016 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, about hidden messages by Richard Logan.

My wife, Ellen Ann, is just ecstatic about messages of love and love lost on Valentine cards revealed by Mr. Logan. Ellen is a thematic collector of love stamps, is a member of the ATA and recently purchased the Hearts on Stamps ATA handbook #158 by Benedict A. Termini, M.D. Now, knowing that the various angles and positioning of stamps on mail had secret meanings, we spent a frozen Saturday afternoon searching through a local antique dealer's stock of post cards and to our delight found six different examples of these hidden messages on cards.

What a different angle, excuse the pun, on her thematic collecting. We're off to another antique shop next weekend as the thrill of the hunt is on.

Gary & Ellen Ann Moore,  
Thunder Bay, ON



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### DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Here's your opportunity to express your views towards previously run articles, shows, or anything related to philately.

Send your letters to:

Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 46024 Kitchener, ON N2E 4J3,  
email: [tshaman@rogers.com](mailto:tshaman@rogers.com).

### AVEZ-VOUS QUELQUE CHOSE À DIRE?

Nous vous offrons l'occasion de faire connaître vos impressions sur des articles passés, des expositions ou n'importe quel autre sujet d'intérêt philatélique.

Écrivez à l'éditeur, B.P. 46024, Kitchener, ON, N2E 4J3,  
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## NEWS, VIEWS & HAPPENINGS

## NOUVELLES, OPINIONS ET ÉVÈNEMENTS

### CALGARY PHILATELIST

The December 2015 issue of the Calgary Philatelist features an article by its editor, Dale Speirs, dealing with pictorial bulk permit mail. We learn from the author that since 2013 Canada Post has allowed its permit mail users to print images alongside their bulk mail permits. It may well be that this type of admail will encourage some philatelists to pursue a new collecting specialty. Included in the article are several permit mail examples, including an image of the Andes mountains, a World Vision emblem, a family of elephants, among others.

Michael Teekens tells readers of his difficulty soaking the small Flag stamps off paper. He solicits advice from fellow collectors about any success they had in removing these stamps from covers or parcels. His contact information is: [michateekens@gmail.com](mailto:michateekens@gmail.com)

A cumulative of articles in the Calgary Philatelist from issue No. 1 to date is available online and a pdf copy can be downloaded, free of charge, at [www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com)



### NEWLY ELECTED

We extend hearty congratulations to Kevin O'Reilly who was recently elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. He is the MLA for Frame Lake.

Kevin graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and a Master's in Planning. He is married and has two daughters.

His other forays into politics included eight years, from 1997 to 2006, on the Yellowknife City Council.

In addition to being a longtime member of The Royal, Kevin is also one of the members of the Geldert Medal Committee. For six years he served on the Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee. He has been a stamp collector since the age of five and currently specializes in the postal history of Canada's far northern regions.



### ROYAL 2016 ROYALE

**AUGUST 19-21, 2016**

**WATERLOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX,  
WATERLOO, ONTARIO**

Attention Exhibitors

The Philatelic Exhibition Official Entry Form and the Official Prospectus will be published in the May/June issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*. In the meantime they are available on the Convention website. Completed entry forms must reach the Exhibition Committee by Friday, July 8, 2016.

### ROYALE 2016 ROYAL

**DU 19 AU 21 AOÛT 2016**

**AU WATERLOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX,  
WATERLOO, ONTARIO**

Avis aux exposants

Le formulaire officiel de participation à l'exposition philatélique et le prospectus officiel seront publiés dans le numéro de mai-juin du *Philatéliste canadien*. D'ici là, vous pouvez vous les procurer sur le site officiel du congrès. Les formulaires d'inscription remplis doivent être acheminés au comité de l'exposition avant le vendredi 8 juillet 2016.

### **PHILAJOURNAL**

PhilaJournal, edited by Susan Butler, seems to be getting better with each issue. The fall 2015 edition of the 40-page journal includes 11 feature articles by nine authors. A one-page editorial complements the feature articles, club meeting dates, the GTAPA Club Directory and an assortment of display and classified ads.

Articles are as diverse as cinderella adhesives printed as propaganda fundraising labels by various German Societies; a data base for on-line postage stamps issued by UPU countries for the past dozen or so years; postage stamps issued by the municipality of Campione d'Italia located in the Lombardy region of Italy; mail sent by Polish prisoners of war officers interned in camps in Poland during World War II; items considered to qualify as different elements for Single Page exhibits and celebrating the International Year of Light.

Peter Butler relays information his club gleaned from a written survey of members about what club activities they most valued and what they would like to see added in the way of new programs. The survey results, on a ten-point scale, indicated that 90% of respondents rated the programs currently provided as an eight, nine, or ten.

GTAPA, Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance, is comprised of 16 chapter stamp clubs.



---

### **GBPS CELEBRATES IN STYLE AT THE ROYAL**

There was a record attendance of 210 at the meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London on 10 December at which The Great Britain Philatelic Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. The very first

meeting of the GBPS was also held at the Royal in December 1955.

No fewer than 46 members of the GBPS provided displays that President of the Royal, Frank Walton, described as 'fantastic'. This was a

view reiterated by Alan Moorcroft giving the vote of thanks, who congratulated all those who had displayed such 'wonderful material'.

In reply, Bob Galland, President of The Great Britain Philatelic Society, thanked all those who had worked so hard to make this day a success, both from the Royal and all those who had shown such superb material.

Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.



**Bob Galland (left) is congratulated by Frank Walton, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, for the fine displays from members of The Great Britain Philatelic Society.**

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# The Evolution of Postal Stationery

By Frank Alusio, FRPSC

## INTRODUCTION

Whenever we write a message on a postal stationery card, or we seal a pre-franked envelope, the thought hardly crosses our minds as to who might have inaugurated this most expedient mailing device. We may presume that the British Mulready letter sheet and envelope released in 1840, simultaneously with the Penny Black adhesive, would seem to many of us the most likely candidate for the first official postal stationery.

Not so! It is a fact that postal stationery, introduced by a state government and hence official, made its initial appearance some 300 years ago. As a fascinating challenge to postal historians, let us trace back to the origin of the postal stationery and seek out original inventors of the innumerable pre-franked postal cards and letter sheets used.

We hope that this report, commencing with events that occurred centuries ago, will prove of interest to the philatelists of today.

Before we get into the nitty-gritty of the subject, I thought that a small digression might be in order. Let's define what postal stationery is.

A generally accepted definition of postal stationery is stated as follows:

"Postal stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorized pre-printed stamp (as opposed to an adhesive stamp) or device or inscription indicating that a specific rate of postage or related service has been prepaid." (From FIP Postal Stationery Commission).

There is a variety of postal stationery that includes:

- ✓ Imprinted stamped or embossed envelopes
- ✓ Wrappers
- ✓ Letter sheets
- ✓ Aerogrammes and postal cards

Picture postcards and souvenir cards, however, are not classified as postal stationery unless they have some design, which shows that they can be mailed without any additional payment.

As was generally the custom throughout much of early postal history, the person who received a piece of correspondence was expected to pay the cost of delivery. The rate varied depending on the distance involved and a complex calculation was required to determine the cost. Many nations found this to be awkward and sought a means of simplifying the handling of mail and the payment of postage. Frequently letters were carried hundreds of kilometres, only to be refused because the addressee could not or would not pay the postal charges.

The dilemma was resolved in the late 1830s with the introduction of the Postal Reform in England based on the concept of Uniform Penny Post and its solution of prepayment, facilitating the safe, speedy and low-cost transfer of letters.

Let's now move the clock back a couple of centuries when a way of communicating using the postal systems with pre-paid missives was introduced by various governments.

## 1. THE VENETIAN 'A-Q' LETTER SHEETS (1608 THROUGH 1797)

The very first postal stationery item issued by a government of which any record has remained is thought to be the 'A-Q' letter sheets, introduced by the Republic of Venice in 1608.

The city of Venice was periodically inundated with floods and the government of the city-state often needed additional revenue to



Fig.1 ~ Letter sheet issued on 1 January 1713. It belongs to the VII Category: 'Printed Dates of Validity'; it has the legend: 'Valid from First of January 1713 to end of December 1715; there is an 'e' after the 'Q' The Lion of St. Mark is 'facing left'

provide relief for the victims of these disasters. In 1604, after a particularly devastating flood, a tax was levied on all letters to or from government officials. As there was very little private correspondence at the time, this tax applied to nearly all letters.

In November 1608 the printing of special postal stationery known as *Taglio* was decided by the Venetian government – *Serenissima Signoria*. Each *Taglio* carried the symbol of the Winged Lion of St. Mark with the letter 'A' on one side of it and the letter 'Q' on the other. The letters 'A-Q' is a contraction of the word *acque* (waters).

The letters roughly 12 x 8 inches (300 x 200 mm) were printed and the prepaid sheets were intended to generate revenue for the repair and upkeep of the waterworks in the city. This was done by the *Collegio alle Acque* - the office in charge of the administration of the canals and rivers in Venice.

Fig.1 illustrates an example of a *Taglio* from 1713. Each sheet bears the original decree of 1608 introducing them for official business purposes, incorporating the price of 4 soldi (1 lira equals 20 soldi) per Lettera.

In the upper left corner is a serial number to facilitate accounting procedures and in the upper centre of each sheet the official emblem of the Venetian Republic appears, the Lion of Saint Mark, holding an open book in which is inscribed "*Pax Tibi Marc-Evan Celi Sta Meus*" (Peace Be With You Evangelist Marc, My Beloved), although it is not visible on many sheets.

The messages could be written onto the letter sheet directly, or it could be folded into an envelope with the letter enclosed. When posted, they were delivered to the particular state office without further charge.

The system remained in operation until the end of 1797 - the year the Republic fell to Bonaparte's conquest. One advantage of these sheets was that the sender could assume that the letter would definitely be delivered. Most private postal services operating at the time would charge the recipient for the delivery with the result that mail was often refused.

Over the nearly 200 years that the 'A-Q' letter sheets were used, some 88 varieties are known.

There were many variations in the names of the revenue officers, imprints of the lion, and dates of validity.

The 'A-Q' letter sheets are considered by many to be the world's first postal stationery. However, others consider them to be a type of revenue (fiscal) paper. Finally, some consider the 'A-Q' letter sheets to be semi-postal in nature, due to the use of the revenue for flood relief.

Hence these sheets can be properly classified as the first postal stationery, as well as the first philatelic item issued by any government.

## 2. THE BILLETS DE PORT PAYÉ (1653-1655)

During the 'A-Q' letter sheets period, another form of prepaid letter sheet was introduced in Paris in 1653 by Jean-Jacques Renouard, seigneur de Vélayer.

By a decree dated July 19, 1653, signed by King Louis XIV, (Fig.2) de Vélayer was granted the privilege of collecting and delivering letters, notes and documents within the city of Paris. Boxes were placed in different parts of the city for the reception of the post.

This privilege was granted for a period of 40 years.

The decree stated:

ESTABLISHMENT  
of Monsieur De Vélayer

*To those who want to write from one neighbourhood in Paris to another and receive a prompt response two or three times a day without sending an employee by means of the establishment authorized by His Royal Majesty for all letters verified by Parliament for the public convenience and dispatch of affairs.*

PREPAID POSTAGE

... One Sol ...

In Paris, ... August 1653

*The letters are to be collected at the Office of the Royal Court General Civil Servant*



Fig.2 ~ The decree

For the cost of one sol (1 livre equals 20 sols), this service provided prepaid postage tickets (*billets de port payé*), used as wrappers for enclosing letters, which were then deposited in mailboxes.

The mailboxes were cleared three times a day, the letters were delivered to the central post office, the *billets* were removed (so they could not be used again) and the letters were sent on their way to the addressee. The *billets* must have been carefully destroyed, for no examples of the de Vélayer wrappers are known to exist today.

The venture appears not to have been very successful as it ceased to operate after only two years.



Fig.3 ~ de Vélayer family coat of arms

The only philatelic evidence that this service was indeed in place is the de Vélayer family coat of arms depicted on a commemorative stamp issued in 1944 by the French Post on the occasion of the Day of Postage Stamps. (Fig.3)

### 3. THE CAVALLINI (1818-1836)

Just over two centuries after the 'A-Q's were introduced, another development took place, this time in the north-western Italian peninsula in the Kingdom of Sardinia ruled by King Victor Emmanuel I of the House of Savoy.

In an effort to facilitate greater control over the postal service, and eventually turn it into a state monopoly, a new prepaid inter-territorial postal service was announced. On November 7, 1818 the king issued a Manifesto Camerale, a decree (Fig.4), introducing a unique type of postal stationery, the *carta postale bollata* (stamped postal paper) known as "Cavallini" (literally little horseman) - a cherub-like rider blowing a post horn.



**Fig.4 ~ Royal Decree, scarce copy of the 'Manifesto Camerale' document issued on December 3, 1818 to formalize the rates of postal duty within the Kingdom of Sardinia, displaying examples of the embossed 15c, 25c & 50c 'Cavallini' stamps to be used on the newly introduced prepaid stationery. Excellent condition, a rare piece of postal history.**

The Sardinian stamped letter sheets were first imprinted using ink with round, oval, and octagonal devices, known as "Cavallini" by philatelists. Later these devices were embossed on ornately watermarked sheets. These sheets were dry-embossed with colourless value imprints of the three denominations as they were employed during the past year as turquoise impressions.

On January 1, 1819, the issue of stamped postal paper was announced in the Kingdom Sardinia. The paper could be procured at post offices and from tobacco shops who received a commission upon their sales. It is interesting to note that even today tobacco shops in Italy sell postage stamps.



**Fig.5 ~ The 3 denominations**

The 'Cavallini' sheets, measuring 242 x 384 mm, were issued in three denominations. They varied with the distance the letter was to travel: (Fig.5)

Distance:

- 15c (3 soldi) value was valid for a distance of less than 15 miles or 25 km.
- 25c (5 soldi) for a distance of up to 25 miles or 40 km (Fig.6) and
- 50c (10 soldi) for a distance of up to 35 miles or 55 km.

After 35 miles the recipient had to bear the additional cost based on set rates.



**Fig.6 ~ Folded letter mailed on December 14, 1822 from Turin to the Royal Post Office of Carmagnola (17 miles south of Turin) paying the 25c rate to deliver a letter for a distance of up to 25 miles.**

The Sardinian stationery innovation soon became well known throughout Europe. Various proposals were made to the governments of Sweden, England and elsewhere to imitate this procedure. This was years before Rowland Hill became the postmaster general of Great Britain.

Traditionalists argue that the Sardinia sheets were only taxes, for no postal service was provided. I wonder why the chilly little fellow was blowing a post horn (clear from the picture), if not to signal arrival of the mail and why he was on horseback. Neither of these practices is popularly associated with tax collectors.

After nearly 20 years of service, on May 30, 1836, the use of stamped postal paper was terminated, but the remaining sheets were used by government offices for official service.



#### 4. THE MULREADY STATIONERY (MAY 6, 1840-MID-JULY 1840)

Four years after the retirement of the 'Cavallini', a new development took place in England: the birth of the first adhesive postage stamp - the Penny Black. The postage stamp, introduced on May 6, 1840, was not the only new means of prepaying postage. The Post Office also offered the option of prepaid letter sheets or the first prepaid envelopes. These were called Mulreadys after the artist William Mulready, who created the design.

The artwork shows Britannia, a female figure symbolizing Britain, at centre, together with a shield and a reclining lion. Figures at upper left and right suggest the continents of Asia and North America. In the lower corners, idealized family members are engrossed in their mail.

The Mulreadys were issued in two denominations, One Penny (black ink on cream paper) and Two Pence (blue ink on cream paper), in two different colours to distinguish the denominations and in two different formats - unfolded letter sheets (Fig.7) and envelopes (Fig.8).



**Fig.7 ~ One penny unfolded letter sheet mailed on May 5, 1840 from London to Jersey, one day before the official first day of use.**



**Fig. 8 ~ Sample of an envelope.**

Note that there is no stamp or indicia in the design, merely the postage value printed at the bottom.

It was only later, when stamps became the standard way to pay postage, that stamp-like images were printed on postal stationery.

Despite their potential popularity, few people had the chance to use them. Their development coincided with the introduction of a far more convenient and efficient instrument for reforming the postal service: the adhesive-backed postage stamp. The postage stamp, which was specifically designed and introduced to meet general needs, effectively transformed the entire future development of the postal service and the prospects for philately.

Apparently the letter sheets with their elaborate, fanciful design were considered paternalistic and condescending. Hence they saw little use and were withdrawn, but are popular collectibles now. They are essentially the earliest stamped envelopes. Rowland Hill, their sponsor and the man generally considered the inventor of the postage stamp, expected them to be the primary vehicle for letters and also issued stamps almost as an afterthought. But the public preferred stamps. Most of the Mulready stock had to be destroyed, making them rather scarce today.

Rowland Hill and others thought the Mulreadys would be more popular than postage stamps, but they were wrong. As early as May 12, 1840 Hill wrote in his journal, "I fear we shall have to substitute some other stamp for that design by Mulready...the public have shown their disregard and even distaste for beauty." By mid-July, the decision to withdraw the Mulreadys had been made and plans began for new postal stationery.

Within two months, a decision had been made to replace the Mulready designed stationery and essentially they were a folly. As a result of the uproar, the stationery was withdrawn and a machine was designed and built to destroy the stocks. The Mulready stationery suffered an inglorious demise.

#### 5. THE FIRST POSTAL CARD (1869)

When postal cards were first suggested, many governments frowned upon their use since such cards would expose the writer's thoughts to the gaze of anyone who might handle it.

It was in 1865, at the Austro-German Postal Conference held in Karlsruhe, Germany that Dr. Heinrich von Stephan put forward the idea of an "open post sheet" made of stiff paper or thin card, which could be used as a low-cost form of written communication. However, Dr. Stephan's idea of an officially produced postcard was not well received.

Others, like Dr. Emmanuel Hermann of Austria, viewed them as "the poor man's telegram." A few years later, he proposed the idea again and this time the Austrian Post Office agreed to the suggestion. Finally, the world's first government postal card was created in Aus-



**Fig.9 ~ Card mailed on December 21, 1875 from Lembers received in Vienna on the 22nd franked with 2 kr.**

tria on October 1, 1869 (Fig.9). With imprinted stamp, the governmental postal card was called Correspondenz Karte (Correspondence Card).

With an imprinted postage (costing half the normal letter rate) they set in motion a revolution in the communication of the ordinary message of no special importance such as the private note, the mundane or jolly remark, the “wish you were here” messages - indeed any short note for which no real ‘security’ was required.

The card was an immediate success, so much so that around two million postcards were sold within the first three months of its issue. In the next few years, Austria’s example was followed by many other countries - Germany in 1870, Canada in 1871, the United States in 1872, Japan in 1873 and Italy 1874.

## 6. THE FIRST CANADIAN POSTAL CARD (1871)

The first postal cards were an immediate success. Soon after their introduction, small views of resorts and interesting places began to be printed on the cards.

With the issuance of an official postal stationery card on June 1, 1871 (Fig.10), Canada became one of the first dozen countries in the world to issue these cards and the first country outside Europe.



**Fig.10 ~ Canada’s First Postal Stationery Card 1-cent Queen Victoria postmarked Toronto, Ontario April 26, 1876, printed by the British American Bank Note Co. Montreal**

In Canada, postal regulations accompanying the introduction of the official postal stationery card in 1871 made it clear that the front or engraved side of the post-card was intended for the address and that nothing else was to be written, printed or otherwise impressed on it. Canadian regulations also barred the use of private post-cards.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the next time we come across any pre-franked stationery, such as the 1901 postal card issued by Italy commemorating the death of Queen Victoria (Fig.11), or whatever may be popular at the time that this article appears in print, will we think of the “Lion of Saint Mark” or of the “Little Horses” or of the “Mulreadys”? ☒



**Fig.11 ~ 1901 Italy CC38 10-cent imprint postage Postal Card printed by the postal administration for private entity in a limited quantity of 100. This is #40. It was issued to commemorate the death of Queen Victoria at her estate, Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight on January 22, 1901.**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Frank Alusio, FRPSC, is a life-long philatelist specializing in thematic philately with special interests in other classes of the philatelic spectrum. In addition to being a collector, he is an award-winning exhibitor as well as an accredited National & FIP Juror.

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# Hoodoos & Coal:

## Postal History of East Coulee, Alberta

By Dale Speirs

*Part I can be found in the Jan/Feb 2016 issue of The Canadian Philatelist*

### EAST COULEE

This village is relatively young and only dates back to the glory days of coal mining in the 1920s. Drumheller had developed as a coal mining town upstream. Railroads were built hither and yon to service the mines along the Red Deer River badlands, which also enabled new mines to develop. Several mines opened up in the vicinity of what is now East Coulee after the railroad extended south from Drumheller, and in 1928 a townsite was platted where the railway line came down along the river. It began dying after World War Two as the coal industry faded away. In the early 2000s the railroad tracks were removed, by which time the remaining villagers were surviving on the petroleum servicing industry and tourism. East Coulee has the advantage that it is on a paved highway a short drive south of Drumheller and in effect has become an outlying suburb.

The post office opened on June 1, 1929 with Nicholas Chebry as the first postmaster.<sup>[1]</sup> He was a Ukrainian immigrant who arrived in Canada in 1912, drifted about the country doing odd jobs, and arrived at the newborn East Coulee in 1928. The population was mainly Slavic, mostly Ukrainian and Polish, and the men had experience as coal miners in the Old Country.



Figure 10. East Coulee, post office photo, 1929

Chebry opened a large general store and post office, with a dance hall on the second floor. It was known to locals as the Big Store and is shown in Figure 10. Notice the badlands behind the store and the sagebrush growing in the dirt street.<sup>[2]</sup> Mail service was via the railway, with some cross routes to nearby hamlets up on the flatlands.

Chebry ran into difficulties because he was squatting on land owned by a coal mining company and couldn't get clear title. He eventually gave up the struggle, sold out the store contents, and moved on. Mrs. Florence Arinda Brown took over as postmaster from December 18, 1929 until November 1931, with the post office still in the illegal store.

A distant relative named Andrew Brown Raisbeck took over the postmastership and moved the post office into its own building on a street of East Coulee, properly platted as a legal lot. He and his family lived at the back of the post office. Raisbeck worked a full-time day job as a coal miner, so his wife Evelyn actually ran the post office. Andrew resigned in 1942 to join the Veterans Guard, being too old for active service. He spent the war as a prison guard at the internment camps in the Kananaskis mountains of Alberta.<sup>[3]</sup> Evelyn became the official postmaster for a short time. The Raisbecks are shown in Figure 11.

Thomas Levison was postmaster from July 15, 1943 until his death in 1951. He was succeeded by Miss Sharon Dawn Berridge, who had been a clerk in the post office. She only stayed as postmaster until Oc-



Figure 11 - East Coulee - Raisbecks



**Figure 12 - East Coulee, proof strike, CDS.**

tober 8, 1952. By that time, the East Coulee coal mines were declining as trains and household furnaces shifted to petroleum, so she got a better opportunity with the Calgary post office, where she rose through the ranks and had a long career.

Robert Wilkinson served as postmaster thereafter until 1955. A brief placeholder came and went, then James Peers took over the job on October 16, 1955, three days after the Canadian Post Office made it a semi-staff position. He served until 1969. Figure 12 shows a proof strike of a new CDS postmark ordered during his tenure.

Three more civil service postmasters followed until September 20, 1989, when Canada Post closed the post office.<sup>[4]</sup> It was converted into a retail postal outlet (RePO), located in a museum and cultural centre.

Figure 13 is its regular postmark in 1990. The photo of the RePO in Figure 14 shows it in 1990. The woman is the author's mother, the late Betty Speirs. Figure 15 is the pictorial postmark used during Alberta's centennial. The RePO closed sometime after 2005, although

the museum is still operating. I spoke with the museum staff but no one could remember when the RePO closed. Figure 16 shows the supermailboxes that replaced it, located directly across the street from the museum. When I travel, I always carry a supply of stamped self-addressed envelopes, so I dropped one into the supermailbox. It was returned to me with a Drumheller machine cancel, which is what I had suspected.

### WESTERN MONARCH

This post office was only a couple of kilometres south of East Coulee, within easy walking distance and a couple minutes' driving. One wonders why it was established but it may have been a company post office for the Monarch coal mine. The only postmaster was Mrs Doryce Myrtle McFarlane Repas, who operated a general store in East Coulee with her husband.<sup>[1]</sup> The post office was probably in the mine company



**Figure 13 - East Coulee, RePO postmark, 1990**



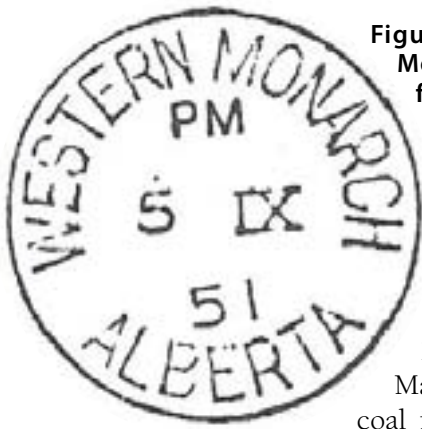
**Figure 15 - East Coulee, pictorial, coal mining and associated stamps**



**Figure 14 - East Coulee, post office photo, 1990**



**Figure 16 - East Coulee, 2015, supermailboxes**



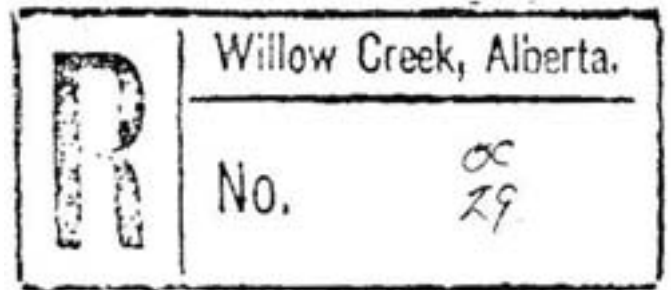
**Figure 17 - Western Monarch, proof strike, full circle**

office, since the hamlet only consisted of six houses and a few mine buildings. The post office opened on January 2, 1929 and closed on March 20, 1963 as the coal industry went into its death throes. By 1970, no traces of Western Monarch were left. Figure 17 is the proof strike of the postmark.

### WILLOW CREEK

The aforementioned hoodoos are just north of Willow Creek where it flows into the Red Deer River. A coal-mining hamlet developed due west of hoodoos. A post office opened in 1929, which took its name from the creek and closed in 1947, living entirely on the coal industry and dying with it as well. Referring back to Figure 8, the hamlet was on the far side of the highway where the cottonwood trees are (the river is behind the trees and invisible from this vantage point), and the creek is a few hundred metres out of the photo to the left.

David Oliver (Olie) Clark was the first postmaster when the Willow Creek post office opened on November 1, 1929 in his general store.<sup>[1]</sup> Figure 18 is the proof strike of the registration postmark. The Great Depression was too much for him, and he sold the store. Mrs Laurie Isabel Sprela took over as postmaster on September 20, 1932 and lasted until 1936.



**Figure 18 - Willow Creek, proof strike, registration**

Alexander Rough Ingram was the next postmaster. He was Scottish by origin, initially emigrating to New York City, then going to work for a bank in Toronto. The bank transferred him to Calgary and then Drumheller. He quit the job and opened a store in Rosedale, about halfway between East Coulee and Drumheller. Later he opened a second store in Willow Creek. Running two stores and a post office proved too much work, so he gave up the postmastership on January 27, 1941, although he kept the stores. Ingram finally sold both stores in 1945 and moved to Vancouver.<sup>[2]</sup>

Thomas Sharp was the next postmaster, working in the store until April 9, 1943. Another shop clerk, Berl Alden (Buster) Jameson became the postmaster and later bought the store from Ingram. Jameson was postmaster only until 1944, followed by his father-in-law Robert Graham. The final postmaster was Mrs. Mary McCallum Stevenson to the permanent closure of the store and post office on October 16, 1946. By that time the coal mines in the Willow Creek area were terminal, and it would be decades before the tourist industry became important.

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# 1897 NEWFOUNDLAND **RED**; **RED** AND BLACK TRIAL SURCHARGES

## Examination of why they are trial surcharges

By John M. Walsh, FRPSC

A two-part research article demonstrated that multiple sheets of the red-inked overprint as well as multiple sheets having the red- and black-inked overprint were created.<sup>[1]</sup> These findings were contrary to statements in all reference books. It is believed that the ink testing was deemed necessary to determine which ink colour was suitable for the overprinting of the then-required provisional stamps. While looking at the images presented in those articles, Jean-Claude Vasseur made an interesting discovery when he noticed changes had occurred in the overprint lettering and in the parallel lines that were printed in black ink on the stamps which already had the red ink overprint.<sup>[2]</sup> In an email to the author, prior to penning his article for the *Newfie Newsletter*, he expressed his opinion that the initial red ink printing was an abandoned printing. A most interesting choice of words! Vasseur's opinion led me toward a new way of thinking about these overprints, which added to the adventure of these surcharged stamps. It explains the reason for the presence of the two proofing ink formats: red- and red-and-black. No one has of-

fered this interpretation since 1897. All images shown in this article are from the *Walsh Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue 10th ed. 2016* where we have re-catalogued this surcharged stamp. It is a major departure from previous listings.

To begin the examination, look at the red-inked die proof sheet (Fig.1). It consists of 50 settings. In making the settings for this die proof sheet, the printer had to use three types of fonts. By convention, these fonts are known as type A, B and C. Font type A is found in the top four rows; font type B is used on the first eight positions in the last fifth row; while font type C appears in the last two right positions in the fifth row.

On this red-inked die proof sheet we find poorly formed letters as well as parallel lines, which demonstrate weaknesses in inking. The most prominent of the poorly formed letters is the T in CENT found at position 50. The bottom part of the T is sheared. A magnified digital cut from the red proof sheet (Fig. 2) shows this and readily identifies its position.

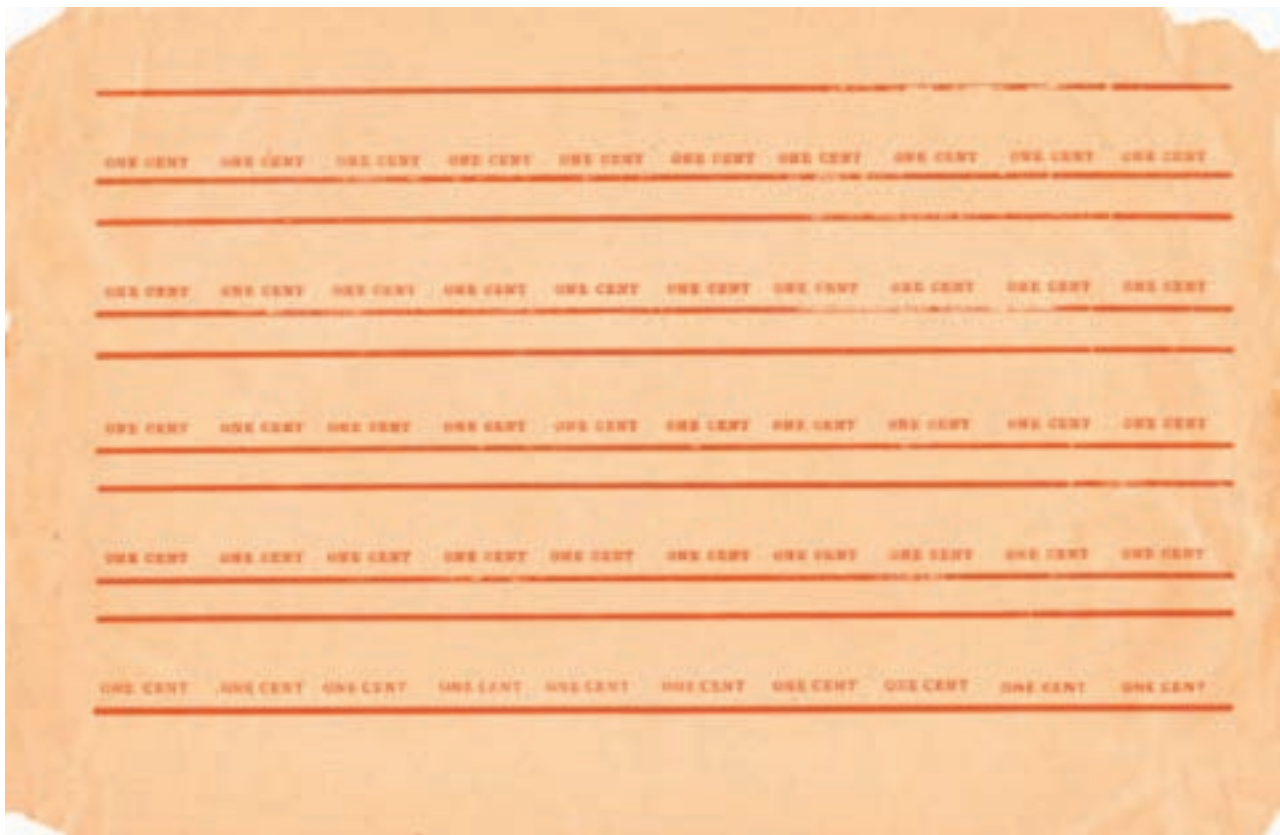


Fig.1





**Fig. 2**

The cover, with an official certificate (Fig. 3) shows all three red overprint font types: A, B and C. The far right stamp shows the broken T letter.

My extensive searches have revealed that this cover has, on its far right, the only such position stamp found printed in red ink.

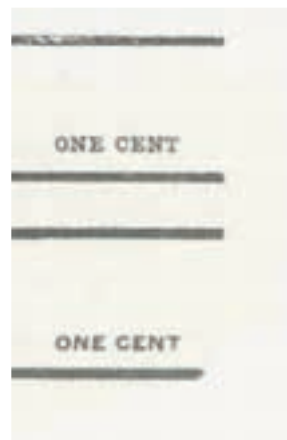
From studying this red die proof sheet, it quickly becomes apparent that the die proof



**Fig. 3**

plate was not considered suitable for the required printing job. It can be shown that fixes were needed to improve the print quality. This observation was noticed when Jean-Claude Vasseur<sup>[2]</sup> examined and made comparisons with the black-inked die proof sheet in his possession (Fig. 4).

Vasseur observed that several letters and some parallel lines in the red die proof sheet were improved to what would be considered a reasonable repair.



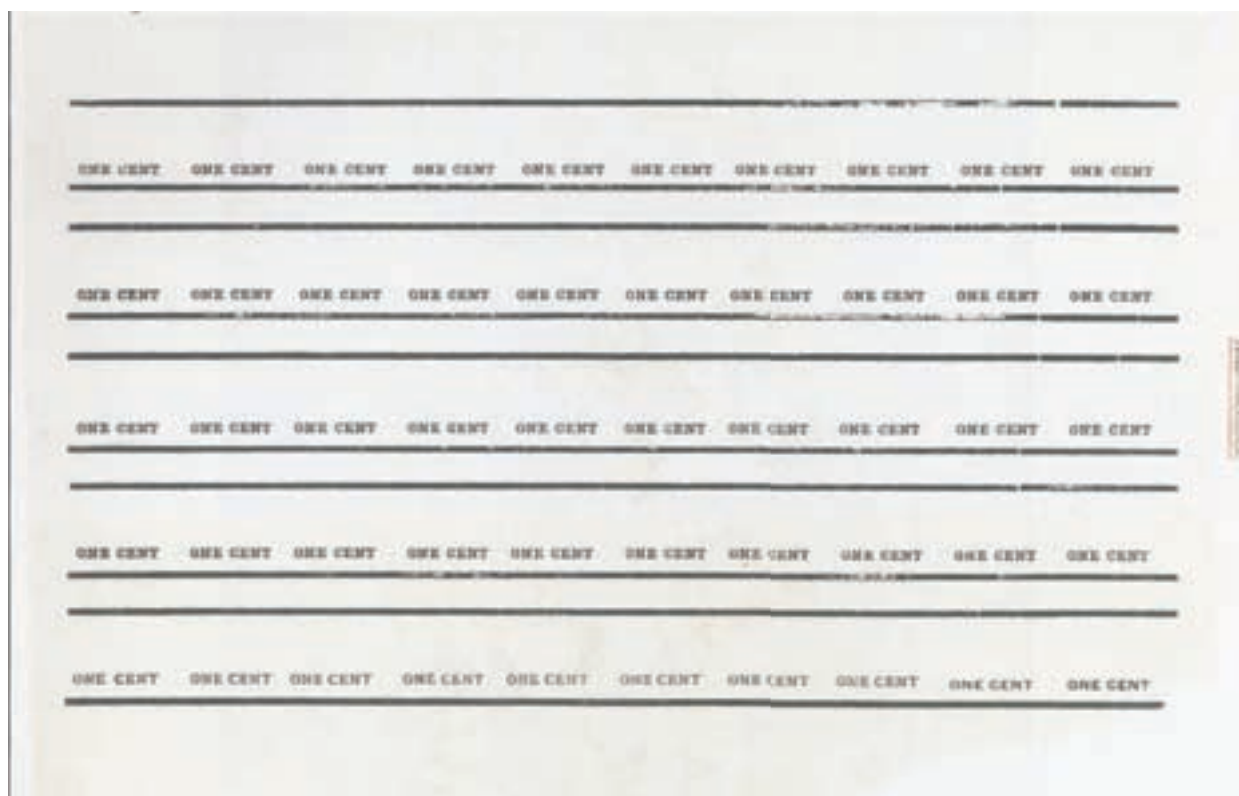
**Fig. 5**

The most prominent fix can be found at position 50 where the T in CENT has been replaced with another T not having its end sheared. A digital cut from the black die proof sheet (Fig.5) readily identifies this position.

The two-part article in *The Canadian Philatelist*<sup>[1]</sup> demonstrates that multiple red-inked overprinted sheets were utilized to have the black-inked die proof printed on to them.

In this article we present a piece from another red and black printed sheet that I did not show previously although Vasseur did. It was listed for sale by auction.<sup>[3]</sup>

It is a red-and-black vertical pair with two type A fonts with the bottom stamp showing two type C fonts, one in each colour as shown in Fig. 6.



**Fig. 4**



Fig. 6

From an examination of the black letters, overprinted at position 50, it is clearly shown that on the stamp having both die proofs, the red- and black-inked overprint (Fig.6), the previous red T letter has been replaced with a black T without the severed end.

From this observation, we show and prove that the initial attempt at overprinting this provisional stamp was performed using red ink. On examination of the initially printed red issues, deficiencies in the quality of the printing attempt are obvious. The same die proof plate then had some repair work done on it and proofing samples were initiated in black ink onto the previously printed red-inked sheets. This is found and observed on those stamps with both red- and black-inking attempts.

I understand that any stamp printing attempts that are unsuccessful and deemed unfit for release to the public are known as trial essays in the philatelic world. The initial emails discussing Jean-Claude Vasseur's observations used the expression 'abandoned printing,' which to me has much the same meaning. It comes down to semantics. So, why the term trial? Simply because the initial attempts for this particular surcharge overprint were twofold: red ink and then black ink printed onto the same red-inked sheets. As well, the final stamp releases were not produced in the same printing manner as the earlier attempts. The initial philatelic production attempts are termed trials and

when associated with surcharging attempts, they are called trial surcharges.

The approved final issue was released to the public in black ink only, as shown in Fig.7.

Position 50 in the released black-ink overprint clearly shows the corrected T in CENT.

Thus, those initial sheets printed with red ink and then again with black ink are trial surcharges and the *Walsh Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue 10th ed. 2016* has catalogued them as such.

The 3mm size perforated block (see Fig. 8) came from positions 19, 20, 24 and 25 as determined by Jean-Claude Vasseur. Because the printed sheetlet size is 25 images, this block could have come from the same top quarter part of the sheet as did the top margin item, Fig.7. That would leave the bottom quarter and the remainder of the other second sheet available for 3mm trial surcharging. As Boggs alludes that there are 50 stamps of 3mm sizing, then one could assume that the remainder of the second sheet was not needed to demonstrate how the sizing would look. Thus Boggs figure of 50 stamps seems correct. I believe that the 3mm



Fig. 7

sizing was chosen to prevent any accidental inking over the Newfoundland name. Notice how high the 5mm sizing rises on the stamp. *The Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* quotes Boggs quantities. Other catalogues do not quote quantities.

To add more information on this issue here is the issued stamp with the inverted surcharge (fig.9). No genuine inverted stamp has been recorded as having been used on cover. Boggs reports that there were 75 inverted stamps produced. ☒

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# Nobel Laureates AND CANADIAN STAMPS

By Michael Peach, FRPSC

The Nobel Prize has been awarded to 23 Canadians. The list includes awardees born in Canada and Canadian immigrants, and recognizes Canadian achievements as well as Canadians who received the prize for achievements while working in the USA. The Pugwash Conference received the Peace Prize in 1995. Awards have been given in all six areas: Chemistry, Economics, Literature, Peace, Physiology or Medicine and Physics.

Stamps have been issued by Canada that feature some of the Canadian winners: Alice Munro, Literature 2013 (fig. 1) Michael Smith, Chemistry 1993 (fig. 2); John Polányi, Chemistry 1986 (fig. 3); Gerhard Herzberg, Chemistry 1971 (fig. 4); Lester Pearson, Peace 1957, (fig. 5); Sir Frederick Banting, Physiology or Medicine 1923 (fig. 6) and Lord Rutherford, Chemistry 1908 (fig. 7).



Fig. 1 Munroe stamp.

Alice Munro, one of Canada's most celebrated writers, is cited as a master of the contemporary short story. She is the first Canadian woman to receive a Nobel Prize and the second Canadian to win the Nobel Prize for literature; the first was Saul Bellow in 1976. She was honoured on a stamp issued on July 10, 2015, her 84th birthday. The stamp features a photo of the author taken by her

daughter Sheila Munro and a vintage photo of Wingham, her birthplace. Samples of the author's handwriting are ghosted over the image (fig. 1). This is visible using a loupe. The FDC shown features Munro book covers and was cancelled at Wingham, ON (fig. 8). The Canadian Mint, in March 2014, issued a \$5 silver coin celebrating her accomplishments.

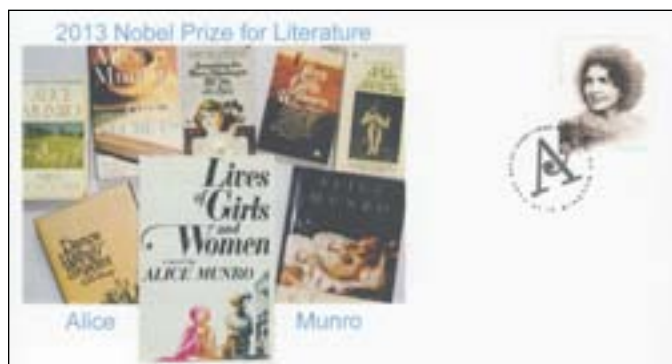


Fig. 8 Munroe FDC.



Fig. 6 Discovery of insulin.

Special mention must be made of the discovery of insulin by Banting and Best at the University of Toronto, which changed the lives of countless people suffering from diabetes. For many years, Sir Frederick was the youngest recipient of the prize at age 34. The 50th anniversary of the discovery of insulin was marked with the 1971 stamp, which shows some of the chemical equipment used to isolate it (fig. 6). Banting is shown in front of the old University

of Toronto Medical Building as one of the Canadian doctors in the 1991 issue (fig. 9) as well as in the 2000 Millennium block of four stamps showing the greatest 20th century Medical Innovators (fig. 10). He was one of the most famous Canadians of his time, and was voted the fourth greatest Canadian in a 2004 CBC poll, actually the first scientist to be so honoured. No mention is made of Dr. Charles Best, his co-worker. The Nobel Prize was shared with his department head, J.J.R. Macleod.

Although he was not a Canadian, the achievements of Ernest Rutherford cannot be omitted. Rutherford was Professor of Physics at McGill University from 1898 to 1907, before becoming Professor of Physics at Man-



Fig. 9 Banting, doctors 1991.



Fig. 10 Banting Millennium stamp.





Fig. 7 Lord Rutherford.

chester University, United Kingdom. He was awarded the 1908 Nobel Chemistry Prize for Investigations into Disintegrations of the Elements and Chemistry of Radioactive Substances. This was research that had been carried out mainly at McGill. The 100th birthday of Rutherford in 1971 was marked with a stamp (fig. 7) showing atomic splitting with a burst of energy. Rutherford's award can be classified as the first Canadian prize. The 100th anniversary of his birth was also honoured in his native country, New Zealand (Sc. 487-8).

Former Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson, Nobel Peace winner in 1957, is on the 6¢ definitive, a pen-and-ink-line drawing (fig. 11), one of the 1972-7 series of six former prime ministers, and the Queen. He is also featured on the Humanitarian and Peacekeepers Millennium block, for his involvement in the creation of an international peace-keeping force. The stamp shows Pearson against a dove of peace, a globe and a maple leaf (fig. 5).



Fig. 11 Prime Minister Pearson.



Three Canadian chemists, born overseas, but working in Canada have been awarded the prize: Gerhard Herzberg (1971), John Polányi (1986) and Michael Smith (1993). Michael Smith and Gerhard Herzberg have since died and their achievements were honoured by two stamps

Fig. 5 Pearson Millennium stamp.



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**Fig. 2 Smith stamp.**

in 2004 (figs. 2 & 4). Herzberg analyzed chemical structures by spectroscopy, and the bands of the visible spectrum are seen on the profile of his head on the stamp. Smith was a biochemist working in genetics and the stamp shows the double DNA helix with the letters that represent the chemical building blocks of the genetic code. A stamp was issued in 2011 (fig. 3), as part of the International Year of Chemistry, honoring



**Fig. 4 Herzberg stamp.**



**Fig. 3 Polányi stamp.**

John Polányi. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his development of the new field of reaction dynamics of chemical elementary processes. He unveiled the stamp at the University of Toronto (fig. 12).

Other Nobel winners on Canadian stamps are Sir Winston Churchill, Literature (1953), and Guglielmo Marconi, Physics (1909).



**Fig. 12 Polányi unveiling stamp.**

The Churchill stamp was issued to mark his death in 1965 and is based on the famous Yousuf Karsh portrait Roaring Lion (fig. 13). The 1974 Marconi stamp was issued to mark the centenary of his birth and the 2002 stamp shows a 1896 portrait of Marconi complimented by picture postcard of the Marconi Wireless Station in Glace Bay, N.S., the site of the transmission of the first transatlantic wireless message (fig. 14).



**Fig. 13 Churchill stamp.**



**Fig. 14 Marconi stamps.**



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Will recognition be given by Canada Post to the 2015 winner of the Physics prize, Nova Scotia native Arthur McDonald? ☒

*The Munroe FDC is courtesy of Hugh Rathbun.*



# RED CROSS SASKATCHEWAN

By Ernie Wlock

## RED CROSS POST OFFICE AND STORE

The first store was built during the First World War by Mr. Arnold, an American who wished to stay neutral so he flew a Red Cross flag above his building. When a post office was added at the back of his store on October 1, 1915 the name Red Cross was suggested and accepted. The P.O. closed March 31, 1977 and Jack Bain was the last store/post office owner operator.

Approximately one mile north of the post office, a local farmer had a barn and during the Second World War he painted the braces on the door red, which were constructed in the form of a cross. He also painted the north side of the barn roof red in the form of a cross. The south

side was not visible due to trees. Across from the barn was a one-room school, Grades 1 through 8. The school did not take the name of Red Cross. It was named “Handly” after Slim Hanvershite and J.P. Jim Gandly: three letters of each surname.



## WHY ARE BARNs USUALLY PAINTED RED?

Centuries ago, European farmers would seal the wood on their barns with linseed oil. They would use a mixture consisting of oil, milk and lime. The combination of this mixture produced a long-lasting paint that dried and hardened quickly.

Where does the red come from? There are two theories: Wealthy farmers added blood from a recent slaughter to the oil mixture and when the paint dried, it turned from bright red to a darker, burnt red.

The other theory is that farmers added a ferrous oxide, otherwise known as rust, to the mixture. Rust was plentiful on farms and a poison to many fungi, including mold and moss. This mix prevented this growth. Regardless of how the farmer tinted his paint, having a red barn became fashionable. ☒

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Harry Voss for providing the Post Office cancels. Rudy Oberhofer for information on the Post Office Store, School and Barn.



# let's talk EXHIBITING

David Piercey, FRPSC

## EXHIBITING PICTURE POSTCARDS

"Picture postcards" is a relatively new type of exhibit Class that is now included in most any competitive philatelic exhibition. It is its own Class, for example like Revenues or Thematics or Illustrated Mail, and is meant for exhibits that consist entirely of picture postcards. Whereas picture postcards are not supposed to

be shown in traditional stamp exhibits (except perhaps to augment the philatelic material in a Display Class exhibit) they can instead be shown in the Picture Postcard Class. Consequently, many of our shows now almost always include a few postcard exhibits too, and these exhibits are often quite popular among the viewers.



Picture postcards include the full gamut of commercially produced postcards that were intended to be carried through the mail, whether produced during the postcard craze of over a hundred years ago now, or still being produced into the present era. One shows the picture side of the postcard, and the exhibit is organized to tell a story just like any philatelic exhibit in any other Class or Division. In fact, the rules and guidelines for exhibiting picture postcards are the same as apply to all our various stamp exhibits. That is, in addition to requiring a well-organized Title Page, a Synopsis Page should also be submitted when making application, as this synopsis will be used to educate the jury about the challenges behind forming the exhibit. Then, the exhibit will be judged using the same criteria of Treatment and Importance, Knowledge Study and Research, Condition and Rarity, and Presentation as any other exhibit.

What differs, of course, is that philatelic knowledge is not of importance; instead, one's postcard knowledge comes to the forefront, and it is the "deltiology" of the postcards which must be described. The more the exhibitor can describe about the production of the cards (e.g., publisher, printer, quantities, varieties, etc.), the more the deltiology knowledge is demonstrated. This may make it somewhat more difficult than the typical philatelic exhibit, since often such information

**Through Postcards 1905 - 1935**

A Warwick & Rutter Post Card postmarked Digby N. S. and dated Oct. 26, 1907.

**Purpose and scope**  
This exhibit will take you for a visit to the town of Digby, Nova Scotia between the years 1905 and 1935 during tourist season. At one point in the 1920's there was at least 20 different hotels, inns or guest houses to accommodate tourists that usually doubled the town's population during the summer period. Most of the tourists came from the New England states.

This exhibit will show how visitors traveled to the community, where they stayed, points of interest they would have seen on their visit, the Gap, Point Prim, the streets and of course the water front. Some of the activities they could have participated in. Where they would have shopped and even where they would have worshipped on Sunday.

This will be done with postally used postcards where possible. Used postcards are sometimes harder to get, but dated postcards with pertinent messages add to the interest of the postcard.

Postcards that are harder to find (warmer) are indicated with yellow stars beside them.

**Exhibit Plan**  
Pages 2-8 Ferries  
Pages 9-12 Point Prim  
Pages 13-16 Digby Gut  
Pages 17-20 Trains  
Pages 21-38 Accommodations  
Pages 39-40 Point Pleasant & McManis  
Page 41-52 Jew Cove & Water St.  
Pages 52-64 Water Front  
Pages 64-65 Yachting  
Pages 69-77 Town Views  
Pages 78-90 Town Streets  
Page 81 - Scenic walks and drives  
Pages 82-88 Buildings of Interest  
Page 89-91 Battery Point  
Page 91-93 Fish Drying  
Page 94-95 The Racquette  
Page 96 Multiple Views

The text written in light print follows the story line of the exhibit as it discusses the views and the history behind the town including the ferries, train, streets, town views, water front, and buildings and points of interest.

The text written in the bolder print discusses the postcards themselves, the printer, the printing process and when and where it was posted.

may simply not be available the way such production details are available for philatelic material. That is, catalogues and handbooks are perhaps not as common and rarity and value of individual cards may not be as easily determined. So the exhibitor needs to fully inform the viewer of one's personal study and research, and determination in seeking out the material, that has been undertaken in developing the exhibit.

Postcard exhibits should be organized in some fashion – whether by publisher, by printing, by era, thematically, or on some other logical basis. It is this organization which expresses the exhibitor's knowledge of the topic – the “subject knowledge” which takes the material beyond a mere collection and into a coherent exhibit.

Suppose, for example, one wanted to show an exhibit of “Niagara Falls,” arguably one of the most iconic, and most photographed, of Canadian landmarks. The choice of postcards on this topic would be so extensive as perhaps to appear quite daunting.

The challenges here in creating a good exhibit on “Niagara Falls” would thus be several. Treatment and Importance would be demonstrated by the choice of material presented and how the story line was developed, so the exhibit would have to be more than just a collection of pictures of the Falls. Research and Knowledge thus becomes a determinant in the evaluation of the exhibit, and the exhibitor needs to show both a strong subject knowledge of the Falls as well

as a strong knowledge of the deltiological aspects of each card. Condition and Rarity also comes into play, as the challenge would be to find well-preserved, scarcer, and uncommon material to use in the exhibit's development, and to highlight it accordingly in the exhibit.

Shown with this column are two pages from the gold medal exhibit, shown both at Royal/Royale and BNAPEX, “Greetings from Dig-

Digby (whether by steamer or by train) would then have occasion to see and do around the town and its waterfront. She also includes an indication of how she will indicate rarity (with yellow dots) and, at the bottom of the page, how she is using either light print or bold print to show her subject knowledge and her postcard knowledge, respectively, throughout the 96 pages (six frames) of her exhibit.

The second page shown, illustrative of the rest of the exhibit, is from her “Buildings of Interest” chapter. Interestingly, she shows a postcard of a church produced by a local printer, McBride's News Stand, and then even shows a postcard depicting McBride's News Stand, and provides an indication of its apparent scarcity. Note also she has arranged the two postcards diagonally from each other, allowing the text to be placed more beside each card than underneath each card, thus helping to vary the layout from page to page and maintain visual interest.

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The interested reader may wish to consult an article by Ania Michas on the George Eastman House website that covers in detail many different

aspects of the history of picture post card production, including the variety of photographic paper stocks used in cameras for the production of “real photo picture post cards” (RPPC's). I find the article is extremely useful for understanding the fundamentals of deltiology. It is found at: [http://notesonphotographs.org/index.php?title=Michas,\\_Ania.\\_%22An\\_Introduction\\_to\\_the\\_History,\\_Identification\\_and\\_Collectability\\_of\\_Early\\_Postcard\\_Prints.%22](http://notesonphotographs.org/index.php?title=Michas,_Ania._%22An_Introduction_to_the_History,_Identification_and_Collectability_of_Early_Postcard_Prints.%22), ☒



by..." by Doreen Fitzgerald of Nova Scotia. Her Title Page incorporates a novel way to present her title – a postcard reading “Greetings from Digby N.S.” becomes much of her title. Then, she introduces what she intends to show – postcards from the period 1905-1935, and from the tourist season. Her Plan, prominently visible, provides the organization for what she will then be showing, and the chapters then focus on aspects of what a tourist, arriving in



# Newfoundland's One-Cent 1897 Red Queen Victoria: Beautiful, But Where Are The Covers?

By Norris (Bob) Dyer

*By order of the Government, I have to inform you [Postmasters] that on or after the 24th June [1897] inst. the stamps present in use are to be called in to be replaced by those of the Cabot issue.*

- J.O. Fraser, PMG

*There have been destroyed the fourteen (14) steel plates from which the above [Cabot] stamps were printed....*

- John E. Currier, Asst. Secy.

*Send new designs for the 1 cent and 2 cent. Have engraved and ship 4,000 sheets each as quick [sic] as possible. [September 10, 1897]*

- Robert Bond, Colonial Secy.

## PRELUDE

Newfoundland hoped to repeat the success of the 1893 U.S. Columbus set, and even required the public to buy the "Cabot's". They also did not want to water down their value by allowing reprints. The set consisted of 14 values from 1¢ to 64¢ produced by the American Banknote Co. There was absolutely no postal need for the 64¢ value, unless you wanted to mail your cousin Louie to London! It was finally exhausted at the General Post Office in 1936. The 1¢ green stamp featured Queen Vic-

toria based upon a photograph by Bassano. The 2¢ red showed John Cabot. It appears the patriotic public decided that \$1 was not too much to pay for a sheet of 100 of the queen they loved. See Figure 1.

Based upon my calculations the average monthly sales of the 1¢ stamps from July 1, 1897 to June 30, 1898 was about 70,000. They were primarily used for local covers, unsealed covers and circulars or to complement other rates (e.g., the inland rate was 3¢ at that time). In any case, there remained only 15,000 of the Victoria in stock by September 10th. Since the plates had been destroyed, they could not be reprinted so Bond sent the telegram quoted above. The G.P.O. had the older stamps, but for some reason (compounding one error with another) they did not put them back into circulation. A PAID ALL handstamp was authorized and 40,000 of the 1890 grey Victoria were surcharged ONE CENT locally and released on October 19th. The printer ran out of the type face used for the first 40 stamps of the block of 50 and used two different type faces for the bottom row of ten. Another foul-up! Collectors soon became aware of the potential value and bought as many as allowed while postal clerks salted some settings away for themselves. A post card from December 1st by dealer Nils Ohmen stated the provisionals were sold out. The PAID ALL handstamp continued in use, until the new stamps arrived.

To compound things there was a change in government on November 1st and a new Colonial Secretary; J. Alex Robinson, stuck his hand into the gluepot on November 27th by ordering reprints of earlier issues, including 100,000 of the green 1-cent Prince Edward. They were to languish in post offices and 65,000 were sent for destruction in late 1899. In another study of



**Figure 1. Block of 12 of the 1¢ Queen Victoria from the 1897 John Cabot and Jubilee issue. The 1¢ proved so popular with Newfoundlanders that it led to a stamp shortage.**



mine, an on-going project with last "RESEARCH UPDATE" in the Newfie Newsletter, #157, October-December 2014, I am doing a census of the use of the 1¢ green Edward, Prince of Wales. I have knowledge of 302 covers from 1889 through 1900. Only 12, or 4% of the total were used in 1898. In my survey results, I have typically found about 50 or so covers from most years, but the red Victoria was obviously favored by patrons during the first five months of 1898, until it was replaced by the green version.

### THE RED 1¢ QUEEN VICTORIA

The Portia sailed into the port of St. John's on December 4th. The shipments of 400,000 each of 1¢ Victoria and 2¢ Edward stamps were delivered. Contrary to the UPU agreement, the 1¢ was a brilliant red and the 2¢ orange (rather than the prescribed green and red). We don't know who was responsible for that mistake. The red Queen Victoria stamp is seen in Figure 2. The Bassano photograph was enlarged and the stamp disencumbered of text, resulting in what I think



Figure 2. The 1¢ red Queen Victoria arrived in early December, 1897 to relieve the shortage.

is Newfoundland's most beautiful issue, still bright red after more than a century. The 2¢ Prince Edward was from a contemporary image.

The Evening Telegraph of December 6th reported that the new postage was used for the Portia's Mail on December 4th to New York, and the Bruce's mail Monday, the 6th. Curiously, none of those seems to have survived. John M. Walsh, of the Newfoundland Specialized Catalogue (NSSC), shows December 7th as the EKU of both the red Victoria and Edward stamps. One of the two covers Walsh has identified is shown in Figure 3. It has the 10¢ registered rate to New York.

There was only one printing of the Victoria, and they (like the 1¢ Cabot) were gobbled up by the public, collectors and dealers. They would add colour to stamp packets! In the investigation of the Post Office in 1900, Postmaster General Frazier commented on the "mysterious disappearance of the RED 1 cent stamps. The unusual colour must have attracted attention to the stamps and increased their sale..." according to Robert Pratt, a noted philatelist and historian. On March 25, 1898, Robinson ordered "...one million one-cent stamps and 500,000 two-cent stamps... Our stock will be exhausted in about six weeks." Note he did not ask for the colours to be changed to meet UPU standards. They were invoiced on May 9th. I have a red Victoria cover sent at the end of May. The NSSC shows the EKU for the GREEN replacement as June 18th, and simply "June" for the VERMILION Edward. The same designs were used, but someone finally decided to use the correct colours



Figure 3. The earliest known use of both the 1¢ Queen Victoria and 2¢ Prince of Wales (Edward VII) was December 7, 1897.

## WHERE DID ALL THE COVERS GO?

In September I went around the bourse at BNAPEX looking for “red Victorias”. The two leading Newfoundland dealers, Coates & Coates, and Jean-Claude Michaud asked me where they were. I have been looking for them for about a decade. I checked with dealers at small and large shows, auctions, price lists and eBay. I have just enough (16) for a single-frame exhibit, bolstered by specimens and proofs.

With 400,000 sold in about six months, there have to be more covers somewhere! My definition of a collectible cover is one with minimal damage to the cover, none to the stamp(s), used at the correct rate between December 4, 1897 and June 18, 1898 (NSSC’s EKU for the replacement green version). By the way, although I refer to Robert Pratt’s writings for some of my information, he never mentioned a cover scarcity. Let’s look at some of the possible causes:

1. e-Bay: I check it every other day, and have seen only one during the past year. As I write this, the “one” sold for \$195 – a nice early date of Dec 9, 97 but stained both physically and conceptually, as one of the other stamps is a 1¢ Cabot! To me this is like having two baseball pitchers on the mound at the same time – the starter and his reliever! The cover was enhanced by two 1/2¢ Newfoundland dogs (one of which looked faded). They added value to the cover, I must admit.

2 Scott Catalogue. Yes. The brain-trust behind setting on-cover prices show Scott #79 at \$32.50. I would buy ALL covers that meet the above criteria at this price. Why is this low price bad? Auction houses feel a cover does not justify being a single lot. Some dealers, traveling lightly, may not feel it is worth showing. Thus, there may be a number of these covers left at home. NSSC, on the other hand, now prices covers at U.S. \$115. That is better, but the most common (drop) covers (Figure 4)



**Figure 5.** This cover with 2 red Queen Victoria's and the 3¢ value from the Cabot set was carried by the *S.S. Bruce* on one of its weekly runs west to Placentia. The ultimate destination was New York.

are probably worth a bit less, say \$75. Any other rate should start at \$115 and can go up to \$300-400. The cover in Figure 5 might go for NSSC's figure. So, shame, Scott!

3. Common folks sold them. Once again, my thanks to Mr. Pratt, as he reported that in April, 1899, J. Foster Rood, a Halifax dealer, offered 2¢ for each used red Victoria. One can imagine many Newfoundlanders



going through their saved correspondence for the red stamps. Wow! An inland cover could have three reds on it. They soaked these off the covers and sold them at a profit of 2¢ each. You can see how the populace would take advantage of this while destroying many covers in the process. The 1897 surcharges continued to increase in value, whereas

**Figure 4.** Most common use of the 1¢ value was for drop/local covers. This one was from February 9, 1898.



mint and used copies of the red stamp did not. I am a Rev. E.A. Butler fan and checked his 1924 price list. Unused copies went for 8¢ and used 7¢.

4. Hanky-panky at the G.P.O.? During this era, the Chief Clerk was Mr. George LeMessurier. In the early 1890s he was in a stamp company with Ohmen until Frasier told him to cease and desist, but in the late 1890s he was also in an “investment company” which (it turns out) was big on stamps. LeMessurier told another clerk he “sold thousands of stamps to a journalist in Ottawa.” However, an audit (the first ever) was done by S.J. Tucker for the years 1894-1899 and found poorly-kept books but no large losses or major errors. It appears clerks salted away sheets to sell, but must have properly reimbursed the post office. The 1900 Commission of Inquiry did ask about the “mysterious” disappearance of the red Victorias, answered only by shrugs.

5. Closet Collectors. We all must know of “closet collectors” who are either iconoclasts or worried about theft. Are some of them sitting on a number of these “lost covers,” unaware of their true value?

I have run out of ideas. I hope this article makes collectors with “reds” happy as their covers are worth more than *Scott* indicates, and that dealers check their stock for future bourses. Contact me at [nrdyer@comcast.net](mailto:nrdyer@comcast.net) if you have further ideas

## POSTSCRIPT

If you are interested in starting a new collection you could try collecting Newfoundland stamps from only 1897-1898. You have the Cabot set, the surcharges and Royal Family Set. There are specimens, proofs, errors, varieties, and certainly enough for five or more frames, if you exhibit. ☒

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*Dyer is the immediate past president of BNAPS and has received awards for writing and research from the Collectors Club of Chicago and the Vincent G. Greene Foundation.*

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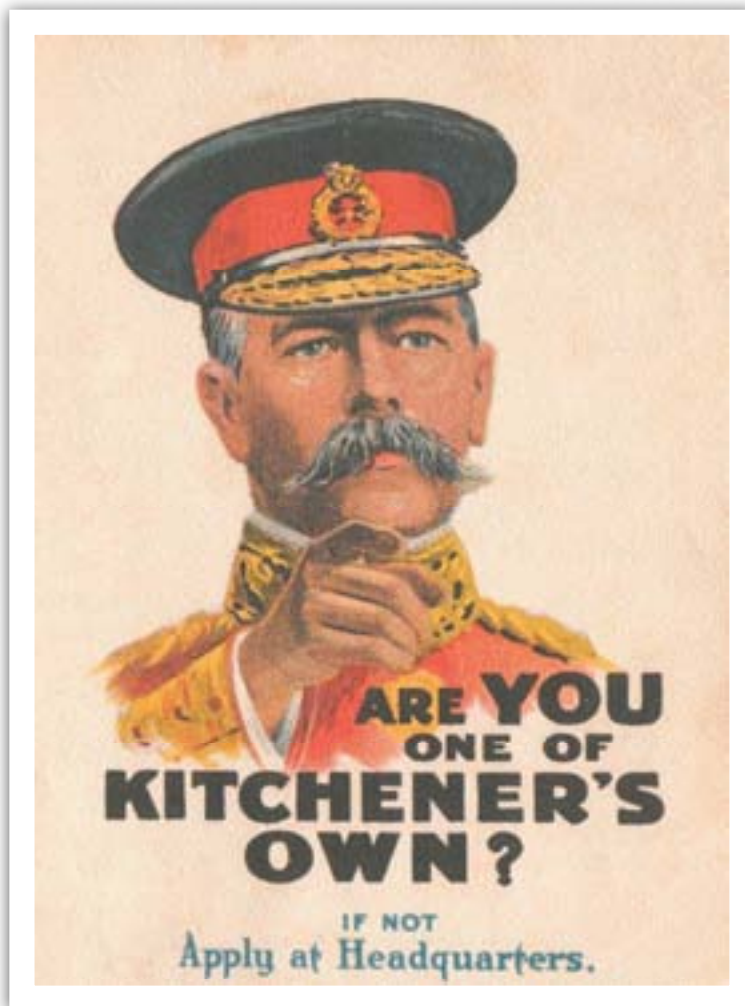


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# Fort Nelson, BC

## 1937-1958

By David Piercey, FRPSC

Look on a pre-World War II map of British Columbia and try and locate Fort Nelson. Not the easiest task, as Fort Nelson is located in what was until recent times the fairly remote and relatively inaccessible northeast corner of that province. Although the settlement's history dates back over 200 years to when in 1805 the North West Company established there a trading post (making it thus the third oldest non-native settlement in BC), it languished in relative obscurity until modern aviation, and subsequent geopolitical events, descended on the region, pulling it into our greater awareness. As the following history outlines, its Post Office was not even established until 1937, attesting to the settlement's meagre need for postal communication except as had been provided by Hudson's Bay Company carriage, using the river barges which conveyed the settlement's raw furs to market by a circuitous water route to Edmonton and thence by further conveyance to Winnipeg and the HBC's fur warehouses.

Yet the modern postal history of Fort Nelson makes for a most interesting philatelic study. Not only was its post office variously in three separate locations each a few miles apart, it had different names at different times at two of these locations, and often two of these post offices would be operating contemporaneously. Add with this a handful of American Army Post Offices (APOs) operating in the immediate vicinity during WWII for the construction of the Alcan Military Road (now the Alaska Highway) and during the operation of the Fort Nelson airport along the Northwest Staging Route, a level of complexity perhaps uncommon for such a small and remote community creates both an enhanced interest and a higher challenge factor for the collector.

### THE FIRST LOCATION – OLD FORT NELSON

Fort Nelson, one of the more remote HBC fur trade outposts in northeastern B.C. was, before the 1940s, a small, primarily aboriginal, community of about 100 individuals nestled along the east bank of the Fort Nelson River, near to where it was joined by its tributary, the Muskwa River. It was reachable by a 1,000 mile journey by fur trade water route from Edmonton, via Lake Athabasca, Great Slave Lake, and the Liard River through to the Fort Nelson River. Most of its supplies historically came and went by this water route. Otherwise, the closest community, also originally a HBC trading post, was

Fort St. John, a town of about 350 residents almost 400 kilometers (240 miles) by a rough overland trail to the south. The accompanying illustration depicts a portion of an older map of the Fort Nelson area, showing the various waterways and with Old Fort Nelson on the east bank of the river (and also showing the location of the wartime Muskwa post office and the route of the Alaska Highway through the area. Modern Fort Nelson, not shown, is at the intersection of the road from Muskwa to the Alaska Highway.)



Map of Fort Nelson area during WWII

Consisting of only a few log cabins, the HBC buildings, a small Roman Catholic mission ("Our Lady of the Snows"), and a sole charge British Columbia Provincial Police (BCPP)/game warden office, the settlement of Fort Nelson remained relatively undisturbed until the early 1930s and the coming of the bush pilots and the opening up of air routes throughout the north.

In 1937, Grant McConachie, one such pilot and entrepreneur, secured the air mail contract for the Edmonton-Whitehorse route with his airline United Air Transport (later renamed to Yukon Southern Air Transport), flying pontoon-equipped or ski-equipped aircraft for the necessary river landings, and began regular monthly air mail service along this route, including a scheduled stop in Fort Nelson. With the contract also came the government's agreement to establish ground radio and weather stations strategically along the new air mail route, and a rudimentary landing field across the river from the settlement was bulldozed by McConachie during 1938-39 in preparation for eventual construction of a proper airfield with such facilities.

The coming of this regular mail service occasioned the establishment of Fort Nelson's first post office, opened January 11, 1937 coincident with the arrival of the first air mail from Fort St. John, 400 kilometers away to the south. The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland catalogue <sup>[1]</sup> lists two official air mail flights, the Fort St John to Fort Nelson first flight on January 11, and the Fort Nelson to Fort St. John return first flight on January 13. On these occasions the pilot Sheldon Luck of United Air Transport carried about 2,500 pieces of mail each direction, many philatelic first flight covers (FFCs) thus resulting. Shown here is the official first flight cachet prepared for the January 13 return trip and applied by the post office to collector covers submitted for first flight cancels. The cachet depicts an artist's impression of what the community of Fort Nelson then looked like. Also shown is a FFC addressed to a collector in South Africa (a not particularly common destination).

**The Canadian Post Office Department's Official First Flight cachet - Fort Nelson to Fort St. John.**



**A January 13, 1937 FFC to a collector in South Africa. Correct 25 cents air mail rate to Africa.**

The first official air mail flight by Grant McConachie of United Air Transport from Edmonton to Whitehorse under the new air mail contract then took place in July of 1937, with similar quantities of FFCs produced for Edmonton to Fort Nelson (July 5); Fort Nelson to Whitehorse (July 5); Whitehorse to Fort Nelson (July 8); and Fort Nelson to Edmonton (July 8). Such philatelic FFCs are often the only way to find examples of the early post office date stamps, given the otherwise small amounts of letter mail normally sent out by its residents.

The Fort Nelson post office was initially located in the Provincial Police building in the community and



**Fort Nelson to Kansas City MO, November 15, 1942. Posted at Old Town and signed by Postmistress Lodema George. (Backstamped Muskwa, November 18, 1942, the post office at the airport.)**

the wife of Constable John Seymour Clark, Mrs. Genevieve E. Clark, was Fort Nelson's first postmistress. Then in July 1938 when, with a new constable, H.G. Engleson, rotated in replacement for Constable Clark, a new (acting) postmistress was assigned, Mrs. J.M. Engleson, though only for a brief four-month period. Finally, when newcomer Arthur George established a store and restaurant in the community, the post office responsibilities were instead assumed at his store by Arthur's wife, Mrs. Lodema George, beginning November 10, 1938, through to the eventual closing of this first post office in December of 1946. Shown next is a collector cover from Fort Nelson autographed by Mrs. George in 1942.

## **THE SECOND LOCATION - THE AIRPORT AND THE AMERICAN PRESENCE ON THE MILITARY ROAD**

Global events were soon to change forever the quiet life of the residents of Fort Nelson. In the spring of 1941 supplies were brought in by cat train from Dawson Creek to begin construction of an actual airport, but, as a result of the entry of the United States into WWII in December 1941, and under agreement with the Canadian government, the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) by 1942 had assumed the construction and supervision of the airport site as one of several sites along the Northwest Staging Route for the ferrying of over 8,000 aircraft destined for the USSR through the American Lend-Lease program. <sup>[2]</sup> The airport site, with American money, American personnel, and nominal RCAF control, quickly grew to include a variety of buildings to accommodate the influx of planes travelling along the route as, often flying only by visual flight rules, regular stopping places with overnight and servicing facilities were required along the route.

Suddenly, the nascent airport on the west side of the river was hosting a large number of personnel from the Army Air Force and the RCAF, as well as the Canadian air radio and weather station personnel and the passenger





**Muskwa to Aberdeen Scotland, December 10, 1945. 30-cents airmail rate to the UK.**

and freight service of the newly-formed Canadian Pacific Airlines. With the resulting small community quickly developing around the airport, a new Canadian post office, called “Muskwa” was opened on April 16, 1942 to serve its growing population. J. W. Miller became the first Muskwa postmaster, a position he held until August 1943, when he was succeeded by W.S. Jacobs<sup>[5]</sup> for the duration of this post office's existence until May 1947 when it closed. Illustrated is an example of a cover with the Muskwa postmark from this period, and a post card depicting the actual post office, it being a stand-alone building among the complex of hastily erected buildings adjacent to the airfield.



**Post card depicting Muskwa post office at the airport and its postmaster. (PECO card, printed in Ottawa)**

Then, with the American decision to build the Alaska Highway (originally called the Alcan Military Road) along the secure “prairie route” from Edmonton to Fairbanks to supply the airfields along the Northwest Staging Route, the postal needs of the immediate area quickly escalated. Construction of the Military Road from Fort Nelson north began in March of 1942 as soon as supplies and personnel could be transported by priority trains of the Northern Alberta Railway to Dawson Creek, and the initial complement of 1,300 US Army construction workers, the 35 th. Engineer Regi-

ment (Combat), shortly began arriving in Fort Nelson, after an overland winter trek from Fort St. John, bringing with them about 900 tons of supplies, including a portable sawmill to begin construction of an Army base camp and to begin the building of the military road northward to the Yukon. They were soon followed by personnel of the US Public Roads Administration (PRA) tasked with the surveying and construction of a finished civilian-grade road to be ready for 1943. By the end of 1942, over 2,000 American military and civilian personnel were located in the Fort Nelson area, both around the resulting Mile 300<sup>[4]</sup> army camp at the junction of the Alcan Road with the airport road, as well as around the developing Fort Nelson airport, a further 11 kilometers (seven miles) away.



**Route of the Alaska Highway (from a cacheted cover used during WWII)**

and mess facilities, maintenance shops and dispatching facilities for expeditious transit of men and materiel to their destinations. At such stations too, the Army Signal Corps was kept busy installing and maintaining the necessary telephone lines and repeater transmitters between Dawson Creek and Fairbanks, and with the operation of all the radio communications along the route. Beginning in November 1943, the NWSC also operated passenger buses, leased through Greyhound, along the entire route between Edmonton and Fairbanks for transport of its personnel.

“Camp 300”, as the Fort Nelson base at the junction was colloquially called by U.S. troops,<sup>[5]</sup> by late 1942 also included an even larger contingent of civilian workers contracted by the U.S. PRA, who were charged with significantly improving the Military Road after its first rough completion in 1942 by the Army's construction battalions. (The PRA contractors built the first permanent bridge over the Muskwa River, for example). Remaining at the junction were the Army's Quartermaster Corps with its fuel and supply depot, its truck repair facilities, its mess facilities and the Army's Signal Corps with its communications responsibilities. An additional camp was soon constructed at Mile 308, and came to include U.S. Army offices, PRA offices, a hospital and

a bank to accommodate the area population of 1800 - variously servicemen, the Army's civilian employees as well workers engaged by private contractors for the actual highway improvements. Fort Nelson, apart from its original small population of hunters and trappers still located in Old Town, thus became almost entirely a military camp strung out along the new highway and effectively under the command of the U.S. Army for the remainder of the war. In fact, such was the American control of the Military Road's corridor that it has been called "the U.S. army of occupation in Canada's northwest" by the Canadian historian Kenneth Coates,<sup>[6]</sup> as all except local Canadian residents (and with no connection to the construction activities) were subject to U.S. martial law for the duration of the war, rather than to Canadian civil or criminal laws.

One of the many arrangements between Canada and the United States in managing the huge influx of American forces throughout Canada during WWII was that the U.S. would not burden the Canadian postal system and would accordingly provide its own postal services to its personnel wherever they might be located. This occasioned the necessity for the use of many different "Army Post Offices" (APOs)<sup>[7]</sup> across Canada which operated during (and after) the war. For example, the 35th Engineers had utilized its APO, number 918, in the three or so months it was located at Fort Nelson. However, by January 1943 the U.S. Army had also established APO 476 to handle much of the postal needs of most all its military and civilian personnel in and around Camp 300 and the airport. Shown is an example of an APO 476 cover mailed by a serviceman on active duty with the Air Transport Command in Fort Nelson in 1944, and carried post free from Fort Nelson.

U.S. mail destined for the American personnel at Fort Nelson was routed initially through Seattle WA, then later via Minneapolis MN, where those stateside U.S. Post Offices had the responsibility of forwarding

the military mails to the various APOs operating in northern BC and the Yukon. Mail for personnel using APO 476 would accordingly be routed then to Fort Nelson and its airport, and the APOs postal staff would then collect the mail and return to their base for distribution. At first, the American mail was routed for security to the original Fort Nelson post office in the George's store in Old Town, but when the Muskwa post office was established nearby to the airport, incoming mail was more conveniently first routed there.<sup>[8]</sup>

Initially, mail arrived by air to the new Fort Nelson airport, but with the completion of the Alcan Military Road, more of the mail instead arrived in Fort Nelson by way of this new highway. The first overland mail from Edmonton to Whitehorse occurred on September 23, 1943.<sup>[9]</sup> Mail was transported by Northern Alberta Railway to Dawson Creek, then placed aboard U.S. Army trucks for onward transit down the new highway. Both American and Canadian mail, whether from military personnel or from civilians, was soon regularly being transported along this new route. Time in transit from Seattle to Fairbanks was reportedly about one week. Of course, letters paid with air mail postage were most regularly carried instead by air to and from Edmonton, often by Canadian Pacific Airlines. (Incoming mail for the battalions working at more remote camps was instead, by necessity, often dropped by military planes shuttling supplies along the route.)

APO 476 would remain open for both military and civilian American personnel until its closing, following the prior departure of most U.S. personnel, on February 15, 1946. However, other APOs had also operated in Fort Nelson, as other construction brigades (with their APOs) either passed through, or were temporarily located in, Fort Nelson. Mention may be made of the 95th Engineer Battalion (general purpose), an all-black (the U.S. Army was still segregated at this time) regiment of 1,200 enlisted men, that arrived in Fort Nelson in November 1942 from Dawson Creek with responsibilities for improving the Highway between Fort Nelson and Dawson Creek. Their postal staff used their own APO, number 998, at their camp facilities before its closing in April 1943, about when the battalion was returned stateside, awaiting overseas deployment. In fact, four different APOs operated at various times through Fort Nelson - numbers 476, 479, 918, and 998.

With the ending of the war in Europe, the theatre of operations switched to the southeast Pacific, and the majority of the U.S. Army personnel were relocated from Fort Nelson (and from all the other service centres along the military road), being reassigned to necessary positions closer to the actual war. However, in Fort Nelson the civilian Public Roads Administration remained, operating from its large camp at Mile 308, maintain-



**US APO 476 (Fort Nelson) to Washington DC, July 13, 1944. Marked "Free" as US servicemen on active duty were allowed free franking privileges during this period of WWII if full return address, in verification of military assignment, was specified.**



**Incoming registered mail, with Muskwa MOTO used as a receiving backstamp.**

ing the Highway and its infrastructure; the Army Signal Corps continued on at Camp 300; and the USAAF continued on at the airport although in a greatly reduced capacity.

By 1946, the U.S. troops and civilian operators were all but gone from the Fort Nelson area. At the end of hostilities, both the air base and the Canadian section of the Alaska Highway were then handed over to the Canadian authorities – the highway to the Canadian Army on April 1, 1946,<sup>[10]</sup> and the air base to the RCAF in 1947.

Collectors of postmarks will seek out other various postal markings from this period. As Muskwa had authority to issue postal money orders, for example, it was issued a MOTO (“Money Order Transit Office”) datestamp in 1942, which also saw occasional postal use. Illustrated is an example of the Muskwa MOTO datestamp used as a receiving backstamp on a registered letter from Great Britain to the radio operator at the Fort Nelson Airport in 1946, after the airport was in Canadian control.

Illustrated next is a registered cover from Muskwa, posted February 14, 1947, to Toronto. A backstamp of “Ft. St. John” February 15, 1947 indicates the mail

continued to be sent out from Fort Nelson by the Highway; the backstamp of “Edmonton and Dawson Creek R.P.O.” February 17, 1947 indicates the mail was then delivered to the train station at Dawson Creek for onward conveyance to Edmonton and onward by the Canadian National rail network from Edmonton to Toronto.<sup>[11]</sup>

The air base continued under RCAF command and, though considered but a detachment of RCAF Station Edmonton after 1951, maintained a resident population which varied between 100-300 regular personnel. Used primarily as a staging and search and rescue base, and for winter survival training for Army and Air Force troops, it had come to include a large number of married quarters, a hospital, a school, a fire department, a gymnasium, a theatre, a skating rink and a variety of stores and other private services. At its peak in the mid-1950s during the Cold War construction of various DEW-Line and Mid-Canada Line radar installations, the air base was the temporary home to over 1,500 personnel, including even a few USAF personnel and their aircraft assigned to DEW-Line work. And, with the International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957-58 with its collection of geophysical data throughout the Canadian



**Muskwa to Toronto, February 14, 1947. Backstamps indicate surface mail routing from Fort Nelson.**





**Otter Park (Fort Nelson airport) IGY cover to Ottawa**

north, even further air traffic into and through Fort Nelson resulted. Shown is a cover from Fort Nelson ("Otter Park") during the IGY, addressed to Ottawa and the National Research Council of Canada – a special envelop prepared for Canadian weather stations to send their atmospheric observations for collection and analysis by this IGY project.

Handed over to the Canadian Department of Transport after its closing as a RCAF base on July 1, 1958, and with the establishment of the new town along the Alaska Highway, most of the buildings at the airport were subsequently either moved to the new town or were demolished.

Postally, the Fort Nelson post office in Old Town closed December 4, 1946, probably about when the Georges opened a second general store and small hotel along the new road. The Muskwa post office at the airport was then renamed "Fort Nelson" May 2, 1947, using the postal equipment from the old Fort Nelson post office (plus a new MOTO date stamp reading "Fort Nelson"), and with Wilfred Stanley Jacobs, the postmaster at Old Town, continuing on at the new location until his retirement in April 1953. The next postmaster, Richard ("Dick") Armstrong assumed the role beginning May 4, 1953 through to January 9, 1958, at which time



**Otter Park registered to Ottawa. This post office operated for only 11 months.**

this post office at the airport was to receive yet another name. This new name was "Otter Park",<sup>[12]</sup> and Dick Armstrong continued on as postmaster until October 28, 1958, at which point, following the closing of the RCAF station and with no longer a need for postal services for the RCAF staff and their families, the airport post office finally closed (though Dick Armstrong then became Fort Nelson's postmaster at the new townsite along the highway.)

### **THE THIRD LOCATION – THE NEW TOWN ON THE ALASKA HIGHWAY**

Although the Highway had been handed over to the Canadian Army in 1946, civilian travel along the Highway continued to be restricted to only those who had official permits to travel the road. Certainly, there were but few facilities to accommodate any sort of tourism along most of its distance, though by 1947 Fort Nelson, the new town along the Highway, boasted a gas station and service station, a general store, and a hotel (in an old U.S. Army building).

When the Canadian Army had assumed control of the Highway, the Highway Maintenance Establishment, Royal Canadian Engineers, were charged with maintenance and improvement of the Canadian portions of the Alaska Highway. A large army base was subsequently constructed at Fort Nelson, at Mile 295 along the Highway. This army base was renamed the "Muskwa Garrison" in 1953.<sup>[13]</sup> As well, the Provost Corps (military police), who were responsible for patrolling the Highway, stationed a unit at the Muskwa Garrison in 1959 due to the increasing public use of the Highway. The army base was later closed when responsibility for the highway network was instead transferred to the (civilian) federal Department of Public Works in 1964, the base then becoming the "Alaska Highway Maintenance Equipment Repair Depot".

By the early 1950s, and with the sale of several lots along the new Highway, a new townsite began to be developed, finally establishing Fort Nelson, today's town, at its current location.<sup>[14]</sup> Gradually the inhabitants of Old Fort Nelson decided to move to the new townsite or, if Aboriginal, to Reserve lands adjacent to Mile 295.<sup>[15]</sup>

"Muskwa", the post office, was once again reborn in March 1953, when John ("Jack") Hume Sime opened his grocery and general store, and post office, in the new townsite. A new postal hammer, with Muskwa in small letters as was typical of the daters in this period, was used. This "second" Muskwa post office existed through to September 1958 (with Mrs. Sime assuming postmistress duties 1956-1958), at which time, with the final closing of the "Fort Nelson"/"Otter Park" post office at the airport, the townsite's post office became "Fort Nelson", and Dick Armstrong became the postmaster. (Prob-

ably the post office building at the airport was moved to the townsite, the Muskwa post office in Sime's store was closed and Dick Armstrong continued on, now as the postmaster of Fort Nelson at the new location.) Again, a small letter CDS was then introduced and the original Fort Nelson postal hammers were soon thereafter retired.

The area at Mile 295 is still called Muskwa, as a line of the old BC Rail (now part of Canadian National) from Dawson Creek reached here in 1971 and a small industrial park resulted. Initially, Fort Nelson continued to grow first as local forestry resources were developed (its mills have since closed, however); subsequently the exploration and development of the area's oil and gas resources currently provide the mainstay of Fort Nelson's economy and its population of 4,500 residents. ☒

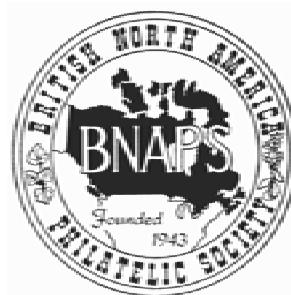
## NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. American Air Mail Society (1997), *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, Ann Arbor MI: Edwards Bros.
2. The Northwest Staging Route began in Great Falls Montana, and went through Edmonton Alberta and Whitehorse Yukon, en route to Fairbanks and across into Siberia.
3. In the 1943 British Columbia and Yukon Directory (*Sun Publications*), Wilfred Stanley Jacobs is listed as the "assistant postmaster" for Muskwa, with Lodema George overall as postmistress for Fort Nelson. However, Archives Canada "Post Offices and Postmasters" data base indicated he was assigned to an "acting role" for his period at Muskwa, and became postmaster of Fort Nelson on April 28, 1947.
4. The Army camp at Fort Nelson was officially 300 miles from the nominal start of the military road, hence its "Mile 300" designation. Dawson Creek is the official "Mile 0" of the Alaska Highway, though many Americans at the time considered Fort Nelson as "Mile 0", given that it was where the construction had begun.
5. Coates, K., and Morrison, W.R. (1992). *The Alaska Highway in World War II: The US Army of Occupation in Canada's Northwest*, Norman OK: University of Oklahoma Press.
6. Young, G. (1980) *The Fort Nelson Story*, Cloverdale BC: *Friensens*
7. Jensen, E. (2009) *Forever and a Day: The World War II Odyssey of an American Family*, Parker CO: *Outskirts Press*.
8. The collection of US APOs is a speciality in its own right. During WWII, somewhere in excess of 1,000 different APOs were in operation worldwide, including about 40 in Canada and Newfoundland, and with 19 of these between Edmonton and Whitehorse and related to the Alaska Highway or the CANOL projects. All the APOs (except for Whitehorse and Edmonton) are decidedly scarce and command high premiums. See Carter, R., *Numbered Army and Air Force Post Office Locations*, (Volume 1: 1941-1964 – Seventh Edition), *Military Postal History Society*.
9. "Mail Travels Over Road", Alaska Highway "Truck Tracks", vol. 2, no. 8 (16 Feb. 1944), p. 104. Found at <http://yukondigitalibrary.ca/digitalbook/trucktracks1944/#/1/>. This was a large 133-page commemorative edition published by the Northwest Service

Command following completion of the Alaska Highway. It is invaluable for basic primary research on the highway.

10. The American-Canadian agreement for the building of the military road was that it would be handed over to Canada six months after the cessation of hostilities, and in full readiness for civilian use. In fact, it was handed over in a relatively unimproved state.
11. The return address of "Grant, Nelson Forks, B.C." is also of interest. C.S. Grant was the HBC manager of the post at Nelson Forks, a small aboriginal community 115 kilometers (70 miles) downstream from Fort Nelson where the Liard River runs into the Fort Nelson River. Nelson Forks had a post office which operated between 1938 and 1952. Examples of its postmark are decidedly rare.
12. Apparently the new name Otter Park was in alignment with the then current RCAF practice of naming some of its air base residential facilities "parks". (Think of, for example, Mynarski Park and Lancaster Park in Alberta, RCAF names for the staff residences at Penhold and Edmonton, respectively, and which similarly had their own post offices.)
13. "Muskwa New Name of North Garrison" *Prince George Citizen*, September 14, 1953, p.1.
14. In February 1948, the civilian travel restrictions were lifted, though Highway use by the travelling public was in reality quite minimal well into the 1950s. Fort Nelson's economy thus continued as highly dependent on Canadian Army and RCAF involvement throughout much of the 1950s.
15. The official postal address of the Fort Nelson First Nation remains "RR1, Mile 295 Alaska Highway, Fort Nelson", and about half of the band now lives on this Reserve.

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# INDIA - THE FIRST DEFINITIVE SERIES AFTER INDEPENDENCE

## *Or The Archaeological Series*

By Joseph Monteiro

### INTRODUCTION

India is one of the oldest known civilizations, going back 5000 BC or more. Ample testimony of its venerable age is provided in the remains excavated at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro in the Indus Valley. Since its genesis, its fascinating history is documented in the Mahabharata. Its history includes the birth of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and its dynasties. The most famous dynasties that created much of India's legacy were the Mauryan Empire with Ashoka the Great, the Sunga Dynasty, the Golden Age of the Gupta Empire under Chandragupta, the Mughal Empire with the laws of Akbar the Great and the rise of the Maratha Empire under Shivaji. Then we have the beginning of colonialism with the entry of the Portuguese including the well known explorer Vasco de Gama, the British East India Company and the French, which all ended with India becoming part of the British Empire. These varied events left their indelible mark on its people, culture and architecture. To some extent, this colourful past is captured in India's first definitive series of archaeological stamps issued after its independence on August 15, 1949. The stamp designs feature exquisite carvings and architecture of gods, temples, victory towers, tombs and forts that are all unique and different from those found in the Western World. So different, in fact, that the contrast can best be described in the words of R. Kipling "Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet."

### THE FIRST DEFINITIVE POSTAGE STAMP SERIES OF INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

The first definitive postage stamp series after independence was issued on August 15, 1949. It consisted of 16 values. A couple of years later, the series was supplemented with additional stamps to reflect corrections in

design and changes in postage rates. The initial part of this article begins with a descriptive background on the design of each stamp and every attempt is made to provide information as accurate as possible. Next, the technical background on the stamps is provided and ends with some brief, concluding remarks.

### DESCRIPTIVE BACKGROUND

#### Low Values



**Ajanta Panel:** The Ajanta Panel depicted on the 3-pie stamp shows the painting of an elephant standing on its hind legs with its trunk curved inwards surrounded by flowers. This particular elephant pose has meaning to the followers of Buddha, who interpret it as reaching up, protection and/

or power. The panel is taken from a pillar of the Ajanta Caves located near the city of Aurangabad. Each cave is like a hall of walls decorated with carvings and paintings depicting stories from the Jatakas, a rich source of tales of several incarnations of Buddha. It depicts a story of Buddhism that spans over a period of 850 years from 200 BC to 650 AD. The caves, the pride of Maharashtra, were cut out of rocks by hand and have exquisite carvings and paintings on its numerous walls.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Konark Horse:** The Konark Horse is displayed on the 6-pie stamp. This sculptured stone figure shows a War Horse facing right with its raised front legs trampling on the enemy, in this case a man. A figure of a warrior without his sandals is at the side of the Horse. This Horse has some ornamental war covering. One of the great Indian poets, Tagore, states "Here the language of stone surpasses the language of man." This sculpture is from the ancient Surya Hindu Temple 1238 AD – 1264 AD at Konark, Orissa, India. Historical records indicate that in the middle of the 13th century A.D. Narasimhadeva-I, the King of the Ganga dynasty laid the foundation for one of the greatest architectural marvels of ancient India - the Sun Temple of Konark.<sup>[2]</sup>





**Trimurti:** Trimurti, three forms of God, is shown on the 9-pie stamp, three faces on one head with each face looking in different directions. The central face is given the most prominence. The right half-face (west face) is of a young person with sensuous lips, embodying life, and its vitality is referred to as Brahma. An object in the hand resembles a rosebud, depicting the promise of life and creativity. The central face, benign and meditative, resembles the preserver Vishnu, “master of positive and negative principles of existence and preserver of their harmony”. The left half-face (east face) shows a face displaying anger, resembling Shiva the Destroyer. Trimurti represents: creation, protection and destruction. Collectively, the three are also known as “Brahma-Vishnu-Maheshwara”. The 8<sup>th</sup> century carving depicted on the stamp is from the Elephanta Caves, near the city of Mumbai (formerly Bombay), in the state of Maharashtra. The sculpture has been described as a “masterpiece of Gupta-Chalukyan art.”<sup>[3]</sup>



**Bodhisattva:** The 1 anna stamp shows the statue of Bodhisattva Simhanada Lokeshvara now housed in the Lucknow Museum in India. The stone sculptured statue shows the Buddha sitting serenely on a throne with his legs in a partial lotus position and a lion under the throne. The left hand

is shown poised to the left leg. On the statue it was the reverse, so a redrawn version of the stamp was issued in 1950 with the right hand poised to the right leg and with the position of the lion also reversed. One hand resting on the arm of the throne shows the finger pointed to the earth. The position has special meaning to students of Buddhist iconography. In Buddhism, a bodhisattva is an enlightenment (bodhi) being (sattva). Buddhism is largely based on the teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, who is commonly known as the Buddha, meaning “the awakened one”. Buddha lived in eastern India between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Nataraja:** The 2-anna stamp shows Nataraja dancing and is a figurine from 1100 AD with two legs and four hands, two left and two right, in Thiruvallangadu, now in the Madras Presidency. The left leg is raised and the right leg is on the demon Apasmara, who is a sym-



bol of ignorance, on an aureole of flames. The upper left hand of Nataraja contains Agni or fire, which signifies destruction. The second left hand points towards the raised foot, which signifies upliftment and liberation. The upper right hand holds a small drum-shaped object. The second right hand is said to show the Abhaya mudra, meaning fearlessness. The face of the figurine shows a stoic expression representing neutrality. Sources on the subject indicate that the word Nataraja is derived from ‘Natya,’ which means dance and ‘Raja,’ which means King. So, Nataraja basically means King of Dance, a depiction of Lord Shiva in a dancing pose. As the Lord of Dance, Nataraja, Shiva performs the tandava, a dance in which the universe is created, maintained, and dissolved.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Low Medium Values



**Sanchi Stupa, East Gate:** The

3-anna stamp depicts the Sanchi Stupa Eastern Gateway. It consists of two square posts on which rest three beams ending in spirals. These posts are covered with intricate sculptures, which are difficult to discern from the stamp (shown at a slant). The symbol on the top beam above the right post shows a trident above a

wheel, which is above an encircled lotus. At the right of the symbol is the sculpture of an elephant. It has been described more formally as follows: “The eastern gateway consists of two square posts crowned with a group of four elephants and two shalabhanjika, female figures grasping the branch of a tree. These support a triple architrave with scrolled ends and carved figures of winged lions, peacocks and elephants. The gateway is completely covered with sculptures depicting various episodes of the life of Buddha Shakyamuni represented aniconically. The sculptures on the top architrave depict the seven Manushi Buddhas, the previous Buddhas; the middle architrave shows the Great Departure of Buddha from his palace at Kapilavastu while the lower architrave depicts a royal visit of Ashoka to the Bodhi tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment.” The end-parts of the architraves are marked by solar spirals. This Stupa in Sanchi town, Madhya Pradesh, India was built in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.<sup>[6]</sup>

**Bodh Gaya Temple:** The 2½ and 3½-anna stamps depict an identical picture of the Bodh Gaya Temple. The stamp taken from an angle shows the temple and three small towers at its corners. Two small towers of another building appear in the forefront of the central design. The temple consists of a plinth (base or platform) on which



rests a square pyramidal tower, 180 feet from the ground. Each corner of the plinth has a small replica of the central tower, so that the shrine corresponds to a panchayatana Hindu temple. It is said that the front of the building has a large niche in which an impressive image of the preaching Buddha is enshrined. It is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment. This temple in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar, India dates back to the 5th or 6th century AD and is one of the earliest temples built in brick from the late Gupta period.<sup>[7]</sup>

**Bhubaneswara:** Two 4-anna stamps depict the same picture of Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswara. The temple appears like a tower that is round in shape with a round cushion at the top. On the left side of the stamp is a smaller structure. The architectural style has been described as Nagara or Northern style, which developed in the 5th century - one of three styles of Hindu temples. The tower is shaped like a beehive, called the shikhara, which is topped by a large round cushion-like structure called amalaka. It rises to a height of 180 feet. It has been said that "All these temples have a typical square structure to the main shrine. There are also two typical main structures, the main shrine (deula) which is taller, and the adjacent smaller structure (jagamohana), wherein the devotees can see the Lord." The Lingaraj is one of the oldest temples of Bhubaneswar, the capital of the state of Orissa, India.<sup>[8]</sup>



### Medium Values

**Gol Gumbad, Bijapur:** The Gol Gumbad or Gol Gumbaz (meaning circular dome), a tomb of Md. Adil Shah Sultan of Bijapur, is depicted on the 6-anna stamp. The stamp shows the tomb taken from a left angle so as



to depict two doors or arched entrances (the larger on the right) and three towers or minarets at the corners of the building. At the side of the entrance appears an arch on each side and at the side of the first tower on the left appears a very small structure with a tree at either end. The dome measures 44m (144 ft) in external diameter, the largest dome in India and the second largest after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. At each of the four corners of the cube is a dome-capped octagonal tower seven stories high with a staircase inside. The upper floor of each opens on to a round gallery which surrounds the dome. The tomb located in the Karnataka State of India was built between 1626-1656 AD.<sup>[9]</sup>



**Kandarya Mahadeva Temple:** The 8-anna stamp depicts the Kandarya Mahadeva Temple (Khajuraho – Bundalkhand). The architecture on the stamp appears to show five spires

with steps at the end built on a base platform and a higher platform. The main spire or sikhara on the left rises to 31 metres depicting Mount Kailash, the Himalayan mountain abode of Shiva. At the top of it is the circular Amalaka and above it is the Kalasha. The second spire is the Antarala (vestibule); the third spire is the Maha mandapa (Great Hall); the fourth spire is the mandapa (hall); and the fifth spire is the Ardha mandapa (entrance). The temple takes its name from kandara or cave and Mahadeva, another name for Shiva. This Hindu temple in Madhya Pradesh, India, was built around 1050 of granite by the Chandela kings in Khajuraho.<sup>[10]</sup>

**Golden Temple, Amritsar:** The Golden Temple is depicted on the 12-anna stamp with water in the forefront. The Golden Temple formally known as The Harmandir Sahib (The abode of God or The Temple of God) is located in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India. Sri Harmandir Sahib, was built on a 67-foot square platform in the centre of the Sarovar (tank). The temple itself is 40.5 feet square. It has a door on the east,



west, north and south sides. The Darshani Deori (an arch) stands at the shore end of the causeway. The door frame of the arch is about 10 feet in height and 8 feet 6 inches in breadth. The door panes are decorated with artistic style. It opens on to the causeway or bridge that leads to the main building of Sri Harmandir Sahib. It is 202 feet in length and 21 feet in width. The bridge is connected with the 13-foot-wide 'Pardakshna' (circumambulatory path). It runs round the main shrine and leads to the 'Har ki Paure' (steps of God). It was built by the fourth Sikh guru, Guru Ramdas Sahib Ji, in the 16th Century (1556-1605 AD during the reign of Akbar and rebuilt in 1776 AD). Its architecture represents a unique harmony between the Muslims and the Hindus and is considered the best architectural specimen in the world of this harmony. It is often quoted that this architecture has created an independent Sikh school of architecture in the history of art in India.<sup>[11]</sup>

### HIGH VALUES

**Victory Tower – Chittorgarh:** The Victory Tower shown on the 1 rupee stamp is depicted in considerable detail and is located in Chittorgarh fort in Rajasthan, In-



dia. The Tower is 37.19 metres high with nine stories and was built partly of red sand stone and partly of white marble and is enriched by numerous images of Hindu gods and goddesses with inscriptions at the bottom of each. This exemplary piece of architecture stands on a pedestal 10 feet high. Each of the nine stories is distinctly marked with openings and balconies at every face of each story. The entire tower is covered with architectural ornaments and inscribed images of gods and goddesses, seasons, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Its inscribed sculptures are a veritable text-book of Hindu iconography. It is said that the tower is dedicated to Vishnu, that the inscribed slabs in the uppermost story contains genealogy of the rulers of Chittaur from Hamir to Rana Kumbha and that it was constructed by Mewar King Rana Kumbha between 1442 AD and 1449 AD to commemorate his victory over the combined armies of Malwa and Gujarat led by Mahmud Khilji.<sup>[12]</sup>



**Red Fort, Delhi:** The 2-rupee stamp depicts the Red Fort from the Delhi Gate view. The Delhi Gate is the southern public gate, in layout and appearance, similar to the Lahori Gate, with two life-size stone elephants, on either side of the gate, facing each other. It is named for its massive enclosing walls of red sandstone. The fort lies along the Yamuna River, which fed the moats surrounding most of the walls. The Red Fort was the residence of the Mughal emperor of India for nearly 200 years, until 1857. It is said that construction of the Fort began in the sacred month of Muharram on May 13, 1638. Supervised by Shah Jahan, it was completed in 1648. Unlike other Mughal forts, the Red Fort's boundary walls are asymmetrical and contain the older Salimgarh Fort. The fortress-palace was a focal point of the medieval city of Shahjahanabad, which is present-day Old Delhi.<sup>[13]</sup>



**Taj Mahal, Agra:** The Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh is depicted on the 5-rupee stamp with water in the forefront, a view from the Northern side across the river Yamuna. It is a mausoleum with four minarets,



the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian architectural styles. This

marble structure stands on a square plinth and consists of a symmetrical building with an arch-shaped doorway topped by a large dome and finial. On each side of the doorway are two vaulted archways with two similarly shaped, arched balconies stacked on either side. This design is replicated in the corner areas making the design completely symmetrical on all sides of the building. The dome that surmounts the tomb is the most spectacular feature from the outside. Its height of around 35 metres is about the same as the base of the building. Four minarets frame the tomb, one at each corner of the plinth facing the chambered corners. The minarets are more than 40 metres (130 ft) tall, displaying the designer's penchant for symmetry. The Taj Mahal, a structure of aesthetic quality, was built by Shah Jahan in 1632 in memory of his begum (wife) Mumtaz Mahal, a Persian princess, representing a timeless testimony to the love of Jahan.<sup>[14]</sup> ☒

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12. See Vijay Stambha in [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) and other historical citings.
13. See Red Fort in [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) and other historical citings.
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*Part II can be found in an upcoming issue of The Canadian Philatelist*



# NEWS FROM THE GREENE FOUNDATION

By Garfield Portch, FRPSC

In the last column it was reported that the first of the five main functions is the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive library and archives for research and study purposes.

The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library occupies about half of the Foundation's physical premises. It contains more than ten thousand philatelic titles that include books, pamphlets, monographs, research papers, post office records, auction catalogues and general stamp catalogues. The collection also includes some photos, CDs, DVDs and three dimensional objects.

While the library regularly purchases new items and subscriptions, the library has also been the recipient of many donations from generous supporters. Donors include many living philatelists, estates of deceased philatelists, philatelic trust funds and other libraries with which books are exchanged. All donations are approved in advance by the Library Committee. Books donated to the library are recorded as such and a special bookplate is printed for attachment to the inside front cover to acknowledge the donor.

The Foundation is fortunate to have three part-time librarians, each with a specific area of responsibility. Sheila Moll is the Chief Librarian, Kathy Hartley is the Research Librarian and Willow Moonbeam is the Cataloguing Librarian. This amazing team is responsible for coordinating all library activities, for maintaining the collection and for assisting patrons and researchers alike.

Once a month (usually the third Wednesday) the library is taken over by the Expert Committee of the Greene Foundation. On those days, visitation by patrons is discouraged as the committee members pore over submissions and continually remove books from the stacks to check and confirm details of philatelic items.

The library is subdivided into four general sections that house: British North America; the rest of the world;



expertizing reference and rare books; and philatelic journals. All titles are recorded in a searchable catalogue that is available online at [www.greenefoundation.ca](http://www.greenefoundation.ca). There are also extensive collections of major auction catalogues with prices realized.

A new collection of note is the digital library. Peter Wood, a member of the West Toronto Stamp Club, has been scanning library materials for at least two years. There is now a collection of over 300 journals, including many early issues from 1880 – 1930. There are also more recent journals including an almost complete file of Canadian Stamp News. These journals can now be searched by key word. Ask the librarians!

The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library is the most comprehensive collection of Canadian philatelic literature in the world. The BNA section includes most (if not all) of the important published works plus unique monographs and limited edition material. A recent donation by Library and Archives Cana-



da has added a significant number of Post Office documents such as Postmaster General reports and Annual Postal Guides for the use of researchers. The BNA section is the most frequently used portion of the library and, as such, is the most complete collection.

The "rest of the world" collection is sorted geographically. This portion of the library has been assembled largely from donations of books from libraries of private collectors and estates. As such, some regions are better represented than others. In addition to regional titles, several volumes will be found relating to the mechanics of stamp production, thematic philately and general postal history. There are also several general and specific current catalogues such as *Scott*, *Michel*, *Yvert-Tellier* and *Stanley Gibbons*. Current editions of journals and newspapers are also available for in library reading and research. Included in the collection of journals are complete runs of *The London Philatelist*, *The Canadian Philatelist*, *BNA Topics*, *CPS of GP Maple Leaves*, *The American Philatelist*, *Topical Times* and several other journals.

Members of recognized stamp clubs and philatelic societies are able to borrow most of the volumes for research at home. Some titles, for a number of reasons, are not allowed to circulate. Rare books and the Expert Committee reference books are not available for circulation but are accessible for research.

Tucked off in a corner room in the library is the VSC6000 H/S, the Video Spectral Comparator which

is used by the Expert Committee for the forensic examination of stamps and documents. A companion piece is a digital micrometer, also used by the committee. Although not available to the casual library patron, researchers can use these tools by special arrangement with the Foundation.

The library is open to philatelists Monday through Thursday plus the first Saturday of each month when possible. Although open, free of charge, to all philatelists, visitors are discouraged when the Expert Committee is meeting or during special events. It is requested that visitors phone the Foundation office to confirm that the library is open and staffed to serve visitors.

An electronic newsletter is published on a regular basis providing library news, notices of special openings and events, and other items of interest to library patrons. Anyone wishing to subscribe and become a "Friend of the Library" is invited to register using the library email address shown below. ✉

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation**  
**10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto**  
**Phone: 416-921-2073**  
**Email: [vggfoundation@on.aibn.com](mailto:vggfoundation@on.aibn.com)**  
**Email Library: [library@greenefoundation.ca](mailto:library@greenefoundation.ca)**  
**Website: [www.greenefoundation.ca](http://www.greenefoundation.ca)**

*To be continued...*



# ORAPEX 2016

## Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition

**[www.orapex.ca](http://www.orapex.ca)**

email: [info@orapex.ca](mailto:info@orapex.ca)



**55<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition and Bourse**  
**Theme - Aerophilately**

**Saturday, April 30, 2016 • 10 am to 6 pm**

**Sunday, May 1, 2016 • 10 am to 4 pm**

**Free admission and parking**

**RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 7X7 - Curling Rink**

# Braille's Miracle Dots

by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC

## BRAILLE ALPHABET: OPTICAL AIDS

This August 17, 1901 cover and stationery list optical goods as one of the company's product lines. In reality, these "optical goods" are not much different from non-prescription eye-glasses sold by notion or department stores today.





## BADEN 1851 9KR, 1858 3KR

The 9-kreuzer black-on-lilac-rose denomination of 1851 comes with a break in the inner frame line to the left of Baden. Without the break, *Michel* catalogue prices are 110 euros for the stamp if it lacks gum, but otherwise is what I call Mint Hinged (MH).



**9 kreuzer**



**3 kreuzer**



**Break in inner frame line**

Let's use NG for these MH stamps without gum. A non-variety MH stamp is 250 euros, and a used one is 35 euros. With the break in the inner frame line the value for the stamp is 300 euros NG, 650 euros MH, and 100 euros used. Figure 1 is the full stamp with the variety location circled in white.

Figure 2 is a detailed view.

For the 3-kreuzer black-on-blue 1858 stamp, the price for an ordinary used stamp is 40 euros. But,



**Break in left outer frame line**

let's look at the prices of two printing flaws, which *Michel* prices only in used condition. If there is a break in the outer left frame line near the bottom corner, the price becomes 150 euros. The location is shown in Figure 3 by a white circle, and the detail is shown in Figure 4.

If there is a long break in the outer right frame line, as shown in Figure 5, the price is 120 euros. Figure 3 also shows the location of the right frame break with a white rectangle although the full stamp image is of the left frame break, not the right frame break. ☒



**Break in right outer frame line**

As usual, colour images are available to those who e-mail me with requests ([napoleon@voyager.net](mailto:napoleon@voyager.net)).

## This Symbol



is your assurance that the dealer displaying it has subscribed to a high standard of business principles and ethics. When you are buying or selling stamps, covers or postcards, you should look for dealers displaying this logo. We are the professional Association to which they belong.

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**Our 2016 convention will be held in Kenilworth near Birmingham from October 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>**

[www.canadianpsgb.org.uk](http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk)

## PRESIDENT'S page



## la page du PRÉSIDENT

RPSC news

by / par George Pepall, FRPSC

nouvelles SRPC

The following is an excerpt from a September announcement, made by the organizing committee of the World Stamp Show in New York, May 28th to June 4th of this year, concerning the availability of philatelic exhibition frames:

“A white polystyrene panel replaces the heavy Masonite. Clear acrylic is again used as the face sheets, but at half the thickness as before. Six specially designed security screws on the face of each panel allow for easy access to the inside panel to load and unload exhibit pages. Anodized aluminum poles would again be used as legs.

“Each resulting two-sided frame unit has a combined weight of around 24 pounds, compared to the original “A” weight of 45 pounds, for a savings of an estimated 40,000 pounds (20 tons!) for the entire 2,000 frames.

“The frames are 100% American made in two locations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, ensuring strict quality control and at or below-budget results. Production is ongoing through December (2015). They are being stored, palletized and shipped to New York City at two frame units per box with the legs boxed separately. All frames will be available for sale at the conclusion of WSS-NY 2016 next June. Pricing and order details will be made known closer to show time.”

We on The RPSC Executive Committee have responded to the offer to buy some of these frames with a request for 200; i.e., 400 faces. Of course, there are many questions not answered in this memo which we will have to ask and find answers for ourselves, around transportation, storage, the condition of the frames after ten days of use at the New York show, and all the related costs.

We know that various groups east and west across Canada have stocks of frames that are meeting their regional and local needs, and that will continue to be the case. It's actually Southern Ontario that is in the greatest need of new frames, but that doesn't mean that other parts of the country should not have a chance to own some of the 200 that we have requested. One chapter has already expressed interest in taking an unspecified number of them.

Le texte qui suit est extrait d'une annonce publiée en septembre par le comité organisateur du World Stamp Show de New York (WSS-NY 2016), qui aura lieu du 28 mai au 4 juin de cette année, et qui portait sur la disponibilité de cadres servant à exposer des collections philatéliques.

« Un panneau de polystyrène blanc remplace celui en masonite plus lourd. Une plaque d'acrylique transparente est toujours utilisée pour protéger les collections, mais elle est d'une épaisseur correspondant à la moitié de l'ancienne. Six vis de sécurité spécialement conçues installées sur le devant de chaque panneau permettent un accès facile à l'intérieur pour mettre et enlever des pages de collection. Des bâtons en aluminium anodisé servent de supports.

Chaque unité de cadre, composée de deux côtés, pèse en tout environ 10 kilogrammes, comparativement au “A” original qui pesait 20 kilogrammes, ce qui représente une réduction approximative de poids de 18 143 kilogrammes (18 tonnes) pour les 2 000 cadres.

Les cadres sont à 100 % fabriqués aux États-Unis à deux endroits dans la région de Dallas-Fort Worth qui assurent une vérification de la qualité rigoureuse et un respect du budget ou en deçà. La production se poursuivra jusqu'en décembre (2015). Les cadres sont entreposés, palettisés et expédiés à New York en unité de deux par boîtes, les supports étant emballés séparément. Tous les cadres seront mis en vente à la fin de la WSS-NY 2016, en juin prochain. Les prix et les détails relatifs aux commandes seront communiqués à l'approche du moment de l'exposition. »

Les membres du comité de direction de La SRPC ont répondu à cette offre de vente en commandant 200 cadres, soit 400 panneaux de face. Bien sûr, de nombreuses questions demeurent sans réponses dans la présente note. Nous devons donc les poser et obtenir des réponses, par exemple, concernant le transport, l'entreposage, l'état des cadres après dix jours d'utilisation à l'exposition de New York et les coûts afférents.

Nous savons que divers groupes du Canada ont des stocks de cadres qui satisfont aux besoins régionaux et locaux et qu'il continuera d'en être ainsi. En fait, c'est le sud de l'Ontario qui a le plus besoin de nouveaux cadres, mais cela ne signifie pas que les autres endroits du pays ne devraient pas avoir la chance de posséder quelques-uns des 200 cadres que nous avons commandés. Une section locale s'est déjà montrée désireuse d'en prendre un nombre indéterminé.

The RPSC will be looking to members, chapters and affiliates to make the frame acquisition a reality. A strategy will be needed to manage and share the new frames in the interest of exhibitors in The RPSC and its chapters and affiliates. T.A.P.E. (Toronto Association of Philatelic Exhibitions), a Registered Charity, could hold title to some or all of the frames, administer storage and arrange transportation to shows and exhibitions. Once details are finalized, a concerted effort will be required before the end of May to fund the acquisition, and to plan the transportation and storage of the frames. If your chapter or affiliate wants to participate, please contact the National Office soon. ✉

La SRPC se tournera vers les membres, les sections de club et les affiliés pour faire que l'acquisition de ces cadres devienne une réalité. Il nous faudra une stratégie pour gérer et partager les nouveaux cadres dans l'intérêt des exposants de La SRPC, de ses sections de clubs et de ses affiliés. La T.A.P.E (Toronto Association of Philatelic Exhibitions), une œuvre de bienfaisance enregistrée, pourrait être titulaire de tous ces cadres ou d'une partie, en gérer l'entreposage et organiser le transport vers les expositions et les événements. Une fois les détails réglés, un effort concerté sera requis avant la fin de mai pour financer l'acquisition et planifier le transport et l'entreposage des cadres. Si votre section ou vos affiliés souhaitent participer, veuillez prendre rapidement contact avec le Bureau national. ✉

## MEMBERSHIP report / Des nouvelles de nos MEMBRES

### NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

The following applications were received and are herewith published in accordance with the Constitution. If no adverse reports are received within 30 days of publication, applicants will be accepted into full membership. Any objections should be sent to the National Office, P.O. Box 69080, St. Clair Post Office, Toronto, ON M4T 3A1.

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. 69080, St. Clair Post Office, Toronto, ON M4T 3A1) d'ici 30 jours, les adhérents seront acceptés comme membres.

(M) minor - activity guaranteed by parent or guardian / mineur - activités philatéliques garanties par un parent ou un tuteur.

### CHAPTER MEMBERS / MEMBRES CHAPITRE

C-248 • Moose Jaw Stamp Club

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*British Colonies, Balkans, some European colonies*

I-29573 • Steven Friedenthal  
*Canada: Slogan cancels, Post card factory postcards, Currency control board, WW II Patriotic Meter slogans, Czechoslovakia advertising cancels, Many others*

I-29574 • Mark Butterline  
*Expo67*

I-29575 • Eldon Godfrey  
*CANADA -- Reign of King George VI*

I-29576 • George Wilson  
*I-29577 • Normand Dionne  
New Canadian PB/sheet stamps*

I-29578 • Joe Trauzzi  
*Canada, Canada 1939, Royal Visit, Royal Train*

I-29579 • Gilles Therrien  
*Canada Mint, USA Mint*

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Changes can be made on-line at [www.rpsc.org](http://www.rpsc.org) "Members Login" or by contacting the National Office.

### VOUS CHANGEZ D'ADRESSE?

Effectuez le changement en ligne à [www.rpsc.org](http://www.rpsc.org) "Members Login" ou en prenant contact avec le Bureau national.

In Appreciation... ...and with thanks to the following members who made a donation to The RPSC in 2015.			Nous désirons exprimer notre reconnaissance.... ... et tous nos remerciements aux membres suivants qui ont fait un don à la SRPC en 2015.		
Aaroe, William S.	Colwell, Peter	Giguère, André	Jefferies, John	Narancsik, Norman	Skelton, Gary
Affleck, D.S.	Cumming, Robert W.	Gingras, Michel	Jonas, Barry	Oliver, James K.	Sokolyk, K. W.
Anderson, Alfred	Darling, Brian	Giorgi, Julian	Keenlyside, John S.	Pawluk, William S.	Stewart, Dan
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Christian, H. Ross	Galbraith, Ian L.	Iormetti, James	Mitchell, Brian	Scott, Mary G.	Woolsey, William J.
Chung, Andrew	Gibbon, John J.	Ireson, Raymond W.	Mouratides, Anastasio	Shortridge, Timothy J.	



To have your event listed in this section of The Canadian Philatelist, please send all details to The RPSC National Office, P.O. Box 69080, St. Clair Post Office, Toronto, ON M4T 3A1. Details may be faxed to 416-921-1282 or e-mail to [info@rpsc.org](mailto:info@rpsc.org). Information will not be accepted by telephone. Please ensure that details are submitted at least 12 weeks before the date of the Show. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE RPSC. Your Show can also be posted on our website by visiting <https://www.rpsc.org/shows.php>.

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. 69080, St. Clair Post Office, Toronto, ON M4T 3A1. Les détails peuvent être faxés au 416-921-1282 ou par poste-électronique à [info@rpsc.org](mailto:info@rpsc.org). Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. Veuillez transmettre vos renseignements au moins 12 semaines avant la date de l'exposition. CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC. Vous pouvez aussi afficher votre exposition dans notre site Web en visitant le <https://www.rpsc.org/shows.php>

## REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

### MARCH 12 MARS, 2016:

WINPEX, sponsored by the Essex County Stamp Club will be held from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent at Tecumseh, Windsor, ON. Free admission and parking. 14 dealers, youth table with free stamps for children, free door prizes. For more info please contact Brian Cutler (519) 966-2276, email [cutler@mnsi.net](mailto:cutler@mnsi.net) or visit [www.essexcountystampclub.com](http://www.essexcountystampclub.com)

### MARCH 19 MARS, 2016:

OXPEX/OTEX 2016, sponsored by the Oxford Philatelic Society will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the John Knox Christian School Woodstock Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr, Woodstock, ON. Free admission and parking. Over 120 framed exhibits, 4 judges, critique session, 15 dealers, youth gift bags, prize draws and club circuit books. Lunch and snack counter available. For more info please contact John McWilliam (519) 290-1399, email [john.mcwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:john.mcwilliam@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.oxfordphilosoc.com>

### MARCH 20 MARS, 2016:

Postcard Memories Show and Sale, sponsored by the Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Bingemans Embassy Room, 425 Bingemans Centre Drive, Kitchener, ON. 10000's antique and modern cards. Leading dealers. Covers as well. South Central Ontario's largest Postcard Expo. Pre 1900 to Post 2000, all topics and picture views. [postcardshow.blogspot.com](http://postcardshow.blogspot.com). For more info please contact Dave Moore (519) 885-3499, email [stamphogg@hotmail.com](mailto:stamphogg@hotmail.com) or visit <http://www.kwcrpcc.com>

### MARCH 26 MARS, 2016:

KAPEX 2016, sponsored by the Kawartha Stamp Club will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd, Peterborough, ON. Free admission and parking and wheelchair access. Up to 15 dealers and Canada Post. Club sales circuit, juried exhibits, show cover, silent auction, members sales table, Woolworths 5 & 10 Cent table, raffle & door prizes. Gifts for every child. Snack bar available. For more info please contact Rick Stankiewicz (705) 295-6158, email [stankiewiczr@nexuscom.net](mailto:stankiewiczr@nexuscom.net) or visit <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/kawartha/>

### MARCH 26 MARS, 2016:

NYPEX 2016 – Annual Stamp Show, sponsored by the North York Philatelic Society will be held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Skaters Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West 1½ blocks west of Bathurst, Toronto, ON. Free admission and parking. TTC accessible. Dealers, door prizes, silent auction. Snack bar available. For more info please contact Mike Turk (905) 731-8380, or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/northyork-philatelicsociety>

### APRIL 1 - 3 AVRIL, 2016

The Lakeshore Stamp Club's LAKESHORE 2016 annual exhibition will be held at the Sarto Desnoyers Community Center, 1335 Lakeshore Drive, Dorval, QC. Free admission and ample free parking. Lunch counter on premises. Hourly door prizes. Competitive exhibition with over 100 frames of exhibits. Many dealers, club bourses, show covers, commemorative postmark and picture-postage stamp. Youth activity center. Hours: Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: François Brisse, P.O. Box # 1, Pointe-Claire/Dorval, QC, H9R 4N5. Email: [fsbrisse@sympatico.ca](mailto:fsbrisse@sympatico.ca) /

L'exposition philatélique annuelle LAKESHORE 2016 du Club philatélique du Lakeshore se tiendra du 1er au 3 avril 2016 au Centre communautaire Sarto Desnoyers, 1335 Bord-du-Lac, Dorval, QC. Entrée et grand stationnement gratuits. Cafeteria. Tirage de prix de présence toutes les heures. Exposition compétitive de plus de 100 cadres. Nombreux négociants, bourses du club, plis souvenirs et oblitération commémorative, timbres-photos. Centre d'activités pour les jeunes. Horaire: Vendredi et samedi: 10:00h à 17:00h, dimanche: 10:00h à 16:00h. Renseignements: François Brisse, C.P. #1, Pointe-Claire/Dorval, QC H9R 4N5. Courriel: [fsbrisse@sympatico.ca](mailto:fsbrisse@sympatico.ca)

### APRIL 2 AVRIL, 2016:

LONPEX 124, sponsored by the London Philatelic Society will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm in the Churchill Room at the Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Road, just north of the 401 and Wellington Road interchange. Exhibits, 12 dealers, draws, free parking and admission. For more Information contact Don Slaughter at [donslau@execulink.com](mailto:donslau@execulink.com).

### APRIL 22 - 23 AVRIL, 2016:

Hamilton 2016 Springpex Show, sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club will be held from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm Friday evening and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday at the Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Rd E. Hamilton, ON. 20 Dealers, Sales Circuit, Canada Post, Youth Booth with free stamps and prizes for all Junior collectors. There will also be silent and voice auctions. Snacks and drinks will be available. Friday silent auction viewing is from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm and auction at 7:30 pm. Voice auction is at 8:00 pm with viewing from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Sales circuits are from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. For more info please contact Steve Forten (905) 807-1798, email [southont@cogeco.ca](mailto:southont@cogeco.ca) or visit [www.hamiltonstampclub.com](http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com)

### APRIL 24 AVRIL, 2016:

Ajax Pickering Stamp Club Stamp Coin Show, sponsored by the Ajax Pickering Stamp Club will be held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Pickering Recreational Complex, 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering, ON. Free admission and parking. Club and Youth tables. Lunch available. For more info please contact Bill Bottan (905) 668-6185, email [billandbernice@sympatico.ca](mailto:billandbernice@sympatico.ca)

### APRIL /AVRIL 29 – MAY/MAI 1, 2016:

StampShow 16, sponsored by the Winnipeg Philatelic Society will be held from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, April 29th, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, April 30th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, May 1st at the Sunova Centre, North Perimeter Highway, Winnipeg, MB. Daily admission \$2, children free. Free parking. 8 -10 stamp and coin dealers, children's table, daily draws, show covers, 50 frames of competitive and non-competitive exhibits. Show theme: Art. For more info please contact John Salmi (204) 895-2781, email [jsalmi5@shaw.ca](mailto:jsalmi5@shaw.ca), or visit [www.wps.mb.ca](http://www.wps.mb.ca)

### APRIL /AVRIL 30 – MAY/MAI 1, 2016:

Calgary Spring Bourse 2016, sponsored by the Calgary Philatelic Society will be held from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sunday at the Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB. Free admission. Dealers, club tables and an Auction Sunday at 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be available. For more info please contact Erika Peter (403) 701-5261, or visit <http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com>

### APRIL 30 AVRIL, 2016:

Saugeen Stamp Club's Annual Show will be held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Highway 4 - between Hanover & Walkerton. Free admission and parking. Door prizes, exhibits, dealers, circuit books. Lunch counter available. For more info please contact Walt Berry, e-mail [wsberry@sympatico.ca](mailto:wsberry@sympatico.ca).

### APRIL 30 AVRIL, 2016:

Timmins Stamp and Coin Show, sponsored by the Timmins Stamp Club / Club de Timbres will be held from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Schumacher Lions Den, McIntyre Community Centre, 85 McIntyre Rd., Timmins, ON. Free admission and parking. Club Table with latest catalogues, dealers, silent auctions and exhibits. For more info please contact David (705) 360-1467, email [yaschys@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:yaschys@ntl.sympatico.ca)

### AUGUST 13 AOÛT, 2016:

KINEX 2016, sponsored by the Kincardine Stamp Club will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at 601 Durham St, Kincardine, ON. Free admission. 8+ dealers, Youth table, displays and sales circuit. A lunch booth will be available. For more info please contact John Cortan (519) 395-5817, email [jcortan@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:jcortan@hurontel.on.ca)

### OCTOBER 1 OCTOBRE, 2016:

LAMPEX 2016 Stamp Show and Bourse, sponsored by the Sarnia Stamp Club will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Sarnia Collegiate Institute Technical School, S.C.I.T.S. Secondary School, 275 Wellington Street, Sarnia, ON. Free admission and parking. 10 dealers, displays. For more info please contact John Armstrong (519) 464-2688, email [sarniastampclub@cogeco.ca](mailto:sarniastampclub@cogeco.ca) or visit [www.sarnia-stampclub.ca](http://www.sarnia-stampclub.ca)

**OCTOBER 15 OCTOBRE, 2016:**

55th Annual Barrie Stamp Exhibit and Bourse, sponsored by the Barrie District Stamp Club will be held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Army, Navy Air Force Club, 7 George Street, Barrie, ON. Free admission and parking. 15 dealers specializing in British North America, Postal History, Deltiology and Philatelic supplies. Club circuit binders and a children's table. Light refreshments are available. For more info please contact Bruce Walter, CD (705) 735-6009, email b.walter@rogers.com or visit <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>

## NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

**APRIL 2 - 3 AVRIL, 2016:**

Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National Stamp Show, sponsored by the Edmonton Stamp Club will be held from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm April 2nd and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm April 3rd at the Central Lions Recreation Centre, 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton, AB. Over 15 dealers and National level exhibits. Grand Award winner can qualify for the APS Annual Stamp Show Champion of Champions. Wine and Cheese Reception, BNAPS Breakfast, Junior Table, Door Prizes, more. Theme for this year's show: "Edmonton - Gateway to the North". For more info please contact Ed Dykstra (587) 341-0804, email eddykstra@shaw.ca or visit [www.edmontonstampclub.com](http://www.edmontonstampclub.com)

**APRIL 30 - MAY 1 30 AVRIL - 1 MAI, 2016:**

ORAPEX 2016, sponsored by the RA Stamp Club will be held Saturday April 30th 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday

May 1st 10:00 am to 4 pm at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr, Ottawa, ON. 2016 will mark the 55th edition of this show, which is managed by volunteers drawn from the RA Stamp Club, the Amicale des philatélistes de l'Outaouais, the Ottawa Philatelic Society and related philatelic societies and organizations. ORAPEX is one of only a few national-level stamp shows held annually in Canada and is part of the American Philatelic Society's World Series of Philately For more info please contact Peter MacDonald at (613) 226-5949, email: [publicity@orapex.ca](mailto:publicity@orapex.ca) or visit [www.orapex.ca](http://www.orapex.ca)

**AUGUST 19 - 21 AOÛT, 2016:**

ROYAL 2016 ROYALE, sponsored by the Kitchener Waterloo Philatelic Society will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm August 19th and 20th and 9:30 am to 3:00 pm August 21st at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, 101 Father David Bauer Drive Waterloo, ON. This is the 88th Convention of The RPSC. National postage stamp, postal history, postcard marketplace. Competitive exhibits, Canada Post, RPSC Sales Circuits, Seminars and Juniors Collectors Program. Delta Hotel, Waterloo. Tours available for your summer holiday destination. For more info please contact Leigh Hogg (519) 746-4270, email [royal2016royale@gmail.com](mailto:royal2016royale@gmail.com) or visit [www.rpsc.org](http://www.rpsc.org)

**OCTOBER 15 - 16 OCTOBRE, 2016:**

CANPEX 2016, sponsored by the Middlesex Stamp Club will be held from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday at the Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd West, London, ON. Free parking. 30 dealers, 150 frames of exhibits. A lunch counter will

be available. For more info please contact John Sheffield (519) 681-3420, email [info@canpex.ca](mailto:info@canpex.ca), or visit [www.canpex.ca](http://www.canpex.ca)

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

**MAY 28 TO JUNE 4, 2016**

NEW YORK 2016 FIP World Philatelic Exhibition, at the Jacob J. Javits Convention Center, New York, New York, USA, under the patronage of FIP and FIAF. Website <http://www.ny2016.org/>. Exhibit entry forms and the IREX are now available. Contact the Canadian National Commissioner: Jan J. (JJ) Danielski, 71 Gennela Square, Toronto, ON, Canada M1B-5M7, Tel. res. (416) 283-2047, Tel. cell (416) 859-2047, email: [jjad@rogers.com](mailto:jjad@rogers.com).

**OCTOBER 20-25 OCTOBRE, 2016**

PHILA-TAIPEI 2016— CHINESE TAIPEI (TAIWAN) 74th FIP Congress October 25, 2016 World Trade Centre Taipei, Chinese Taipei, All FIP Classes Canadian Commissioner: George Constantourakis 2115 Girouard, Montreal QC, H4A 3C4 E-mail: [geo.constant@sympatico.ca](mailto:geo.constant@sympatico.ca) Phone: (514) 482-2764 (evenings & weekends)

*The International Exhibitor Newsletter, an update on FIP, FIAF shows and RPSC international exhibition news for Canadian exhibitors, is now available to RPSC members by email from Jim Taylor, the RPSC International Liaison Officer. Send your name and email address to [miquelon@shaw.ca](mailto:miquelon@shaw.ca).*

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Avez-vous des amis philatélistes qui ne sont pas membres de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada? Donnez-nous leur nom ou remettez-leur cet exemplaire du Philatéliste canadien. Demandez-leur de remplir et de retourner le formulaire de renseignements qui suit. Inscrivez votre nom et votre numéro de membre de La SRPC (que vous trouverez au-dessus de votre nom sur l'étiquette d'adresse apposée à la revue) dans la case « Recommandé par ». Pour chaque nouveau membre que vous recruterez, nous vous accorderons un rabais de 5,00 \$ sur votre prochaine cotisation.

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# Messages from the NATIONAL OFFICE



# messages du BUREAU NATIONAL

RPSC news

by / par Robert Timberg

nouvelles SRPC

*Executive Manager, National Office / Directeur Administratif, Bureau National*

As this is the first National Office column of 2016, we would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We sincerely hope that you will achieve your philatelic goals for the year.

As we look forward into 2016, there are several things we want to remind you about or bring to your attention. First, the organizing committee of the World Stamp Show in New York City, to be held from May 28 to June 4, has advised that philatelic exhibition frames used at the show will be available for purchase after the show. Your Society has offered to buy 200. Please see the column in this issue by President George Pepall who explains the assistance we need from chapters, affiliates and members if we are to complete the purchase.

Second, most of us regrettably will not be able to attend the World Stamp Show. I for one will be working and unable to travel. However some members of your Society will be there, including President Pepall and Vice President Rod Paige. The Royal will be sharing a table with BNAPS and PHSC. Mike Walsh, publisher of Canadian Stamp News, will also be at the show. There will be plenty of news about New York 2016 in the days and weeks afterwards for those of us unable to attend.

Third, this year's Convention and Annual General Meeting of The Royal is being held in Waterloo, Ontario on August 19 – 21. It is being hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society and promises to be a great event. Details are available at <http://www.kwstampclub.org/royal-2016-royale-national-stamp-exhibition/>

Fourth, a new national show has been approved. The new exhibition, CANPEX 2016, will be held October 15 – 16 in London, Ontario. The show is being organized by The Middlesex Stamp Club and is being modelled on the highly successful ORAPEX show held annually in early May in Ottawa. The plan is to mount CANPEX annually the weekend after Thanksgiving. Be sure to enter the show into your calendar. For more information, see <http://www.canpex.ca/>

Fifth, October is Stamp Collecting Month. I ask each of you to think about what you can do to bring stamp collecting into your community and expand its reach. Remember, stamp collecting is the hobby of a lifetime. It lasts a lifetime. I will have more to say on this in the July/August issue.

Yours in philately. ✉

Comme il s'agit de la première chronique du Bureau national pour 2016, nous aimerions saisir l'occasion pour souhaiter à toutes et à tous une bonne et heureuse année. Nous espérons sincèrement que vous atteindrez les objectifs philatéliques que vous vous êtes fixés pour l'année.

Alors que nous anticipons l'année 2016, il y a plusieurs choses que nous aimerions vous rappeler ou sur lesquelles nous voudrions attirer votre attention. Premièrement, le comité organisateur du World Stamp Show de New York, qui aura lieu du 28 mai au 4 juin, a annoncé que les cadres servant à monter les collections philatéliques utilisés à l'exposition seront mis en vente après cette dernière. Votre société a offert d'en acheter 200. Veuillez lire, dans le présent numéro, la chronique du président George Pepall qui explique l'aide dont nous avons besoin des sections de clubs, des affiliés et des membres en vue de conclure cet achat.

Deuxièmement, la plupart d'entre nous ne seront malheureusement pas en mesure d'assister au World Stamp Show. Pour ma part, je serai au travail et dans l'impossibilité de voyager. Cependant, certains membres de votre société seront là, notamment, le président Pepall et le vice-président, Rod Paige. La Royale sera à la même table que la British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) et la Postal History Society of Canada (PHSC). Mike Walsh, l'éditeur de Canadian Stamp News, sera aussi à l'exposition. Pour ceux qui ne peuvent y assister, beaucoup de nouvelles sur New York 2016 seront publiées dans les jours et les semaines qui suivront.

Troisièmement, cette année, le congrès et l'assemblée générale annuelle de La Royale auront lieu à Waterloo, Ontario, du 19 au 21 août. Ils seront organisés par la société philatélique de Kitchener-Waterloo, un événement qui promet d'être formidable. Vous trouverez les détails au <http://www.kwstampclub.org/royal-2016-royale-national-stamp-exhibition/>

Quatrièmement, une nouvelle exposition nationale a été approuvée. Cette nouvelle exposition, CANPEX 2016, se déroulera les 15 et 16 octobre, à London, Ontario. Elle est organisée par le Middlesex Stamp Club et s'inspire de la très réussie ORAPEX, qui a lieu chaque année au début de mai, à Ottawa. CANPEX devrait être montée chaque année, la fin de semaine suivant l'Action de grâces. N'oubliez pas de l'inscrire à votre calendrier. Pour obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires, voyez <http://www.canpex.ca/>

Cinquièmement, octobre est le mois de la philatélie. Je demande donc à chacun d'entre vous de réfléchir à ce qu'il pourrait faire pour promouvoir la collection de timbres dans sa collectivité et en élargir les horizons. Souvenez-vous que la philatélie est le passe-temps de toute une vie. Elle dure toute la vie. J'en aurai davantage à dire sur le sujet dans le numéro de juillet-août.

Meilleures salutations philatéliques. ✉



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**Walsh British North America** Specialized Stamp eCatalogue 10th edition, 2016 Colour; 624 pages. [www.nfldstamps.com](http://www.nfldstamps.com)

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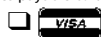
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## BOOK REVIEWS

### OUVRAGES PARUS



#### **STAMP CATALOGUE POLAND**

Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 1st edition, 2015. ISBN-10: 0-85259-969-2; ISBN-13: 978-0-85259-969-3; (7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH). Laminated soft cover, 171 pages, 240 x 170 mm. Retail price 18.95 British pounds. Orders can be placed by telephone: +44(0)425-472 363 or by e-mail: [orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk) or internet: [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

The year 2015 marks Stanley Gibbons' 150th year in the catalogue publishing business. As part of this historic occasion, the company looked at how its publications are structured and how it breaks down its range of foreign catalogues. This all-new, 1st edition catalogue listing and pricing the stamps of Poland is a result of this review. Included in the listing are the stamps of the German Occupation of Poland, Polish Military Post, Polish Occupation of Central Lithuania, Polish Post Offices Abroad including Constantinople, Danzig, Odessa, as well as Allenstein, Marienwerder and Upper Silesia.

Additionally, many new listings were added, such as Regional Issues, Issues for Southern Poland, Issues for Northern Poland and Issues for the Whole of Poland.

Newly released stamps are listed to 2015, including the June 15 Walt Disney Characters sheet. Machine labels include the November 1996 design and the multi-coloured 1998 designs depicting the postal horn emblem. Prices for these machine labels are not listed.

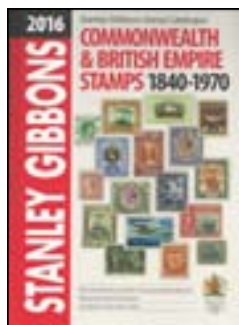
Because this new catalogue also doubles as a retail price list for stamps sold by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., it includes a seven-page section of philatelic information and guidelines. Listed prices are for stamps in fine condition as defined in the catalogue and are subject to change. If a stamp is not as described, the amount paid will be refunded as outlined in the company's guarantee policy.

Also included in this 1st edition catalogue are major errors, shade variations, perforations and watermarks. All illustrated stamp images are in full colour.

A one-page list of abbreviations used in the publication, an introduction to the catalogue, a contents page, a list of specialist societies and a list of added and altered stamp numbers complement the stamp listings. Included also is the ever-popular International Philatelic Glossary showing commonly used philatelic terms in five languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Stamp Catalogue Poland fills a void for collectors specializing in the stamps of the Republic of Poland and related stamp areas as well as for collectors exploring a new collecting challenge.

**Tony Shaman, FRPSC**



#### **COMMONWEALTH & BRITISH EMPIRE STAMPS 1840-1970**

Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 118th edition, 2016. ISBN-10: 0-85259-951-X; ISBN-13: 978-0-85259-951-8; Hard cover. Retail price 84.95 British pounds. (Unit 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH). 720 pages, 350 x 215 mm. Orders can be placed by telephone: +44(0)425-472 363 or by e-mail: [orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk) or internet: [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

There is much that is new in the 2016 edition of the Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970. The current edition, the 118th, includes a variety of new listings to make this latest catalogue - a perennially favourite with collectors - more useful for collectors than any of its predecessors. Included in these listings are watermark variations, perforation types, various stamp papers and printing methods, printing errors, plate flaws and booklets. All are priced.

A classic work, the catalogue includes the stamps of the British Empire and Commonwealth from each postal administration's initial issues up to and including the 1970 issues of the current monarch, Queen Elizabeth. The preface by Hugh Jefferies, the catalogue editor, covers such topics as the history of the company's first stamp catalogue published in 1865, an overview of stamp price realizations throughout the past year and revisions updating data from previous editions. We learn from the editor's remarks that the 2015 edition

of this ever-popular catalogue earned a large vermeil medal at the Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition. Longtime users of this catalogue will not be surprised to learn that this high calibre publication earned a high award at the highest levels of our hobby.

Included in the new 2016 edition are several previously unlisted inverted and reversed watermark varieties; previously listed but unpriced varieties are now fully listed with current market values. Other new additions in the “used abroad” sections of the catalogue include stamps of India used in Bahrain and Hong Kong stamps used in Treaty Ports. Also noteworthy are the new plate flaws ranging from the “Barbed wire” variety on the South Africa 1d Victory stamp to the New Zealand 1d “Dominion” stamp issue. Other newly listed discoveries include the breathtaking and much sought-after “Break in cloud” variety on the Falkland Islands Centenary issue of 1933.

All illustrations are in full colour and an already sturdy and durable publication has had its case-bound binding strengthened to give it an even longer lifespan.

As has been the case for the past several years, price increases are again noted for many of the listed stamps - some quite significant. Notable are increases for the stamps of Australia and its States as well as India and States. Extensive price increases are also noted for print errors, stamps with plate flaws and many watermark varieties.

Of interest to collectors will be the fully priced listings of South African stamps used in South West Africa and the listings of Transvaal issues used in Swaziland, which have been extended to include the stamps and postage dues of the Edward VII era. Also listed and priced are the “CSAR” railway company official stamps of Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

There is much that is new in this latest edition of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970. It is a publication that every serious collector of the stamps of Great Britain and Commonwealth stamps will want to include in their philatelic reference collection.

**Tony Shaman, FRPSC**

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