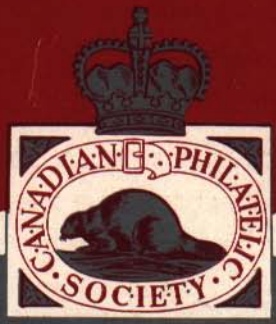
# The CANADIAN PHILATELIST




## C.P.S. SILVER JUBILEE CONVENTION

April 16th - 17th - 18th, 1953

KING EDWARD HOTEL
TORONTO

*Official Organ of the Canadian Philatelic Society*

VOL. 4. No. 1 MARCH, 1953

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For the past few months I have been taking duplicate stamps and covers out of my collection to be sold at this Convention. This is an opportunity for you to acquire some nice material for your own collection. I hope to meet you in C.B.

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# CONVENTION

## KING EDWARD HOTEL

**TORONTO**

## APRIL 16-17-18, 1953

## PROGRAM

**THURSDAY—APRIL 16th**

1:00 p.m.—Registrations
2:00 p.m.—Exhibition Opens (Sheraton Room)
2:30 p.m.—Bourse (Sheraton Room)
2:30 p.m.—Post Office Opens
8:00 p.m.—Official Opening of Convention by the Mayor of Toronto
10:00 p.m.—Exhibition Closes

**FRIDAY—APRIL 17th**

10:00 a.m.—Exhibition & Bourse (Sheraton Room)
11:00 a.m.—Post Office Opens
1:00 p.m.—Registrations
8:00 p.m.—Annual Meeting (Yellow Room)
8:00 p.m.—Ladies Stag Party
10:00 p.m.—Reception—Members & Guests (Yellow Room)
10:00 p.m.—Exhibition Closes

**SATURDAY—APRIL 18th**

10:00 a.m.—Registrations
10:00 a.m.—Exhibition & Bourse (Sheraton Room)
11:00 a.m.—Directors Meeting
3:00 p.m.—Auction
5:00 p.m.—Exhibition Closes
5:30 p.m.—Reception (Ballroom)
6:30 p.m.—Banquet (Ballroom)

# WHAT'S NEW AT OTTAWA?

by THE HONOURABLE ALCIDE CÔTÉ
*Postmaster General of Canada*

*Speech delivered by the Postmaster General to the R.A. Stamp Club Ottawa, Dec. 10th, 1952.*

IF I MADE the conventional speech of one in my official position to a philatelic gathering, I would in a very erudite manner follow protocol. I would explain to you philatelists, what philately is, what it is not, how its name was derived, and how the hobby developed until it has swept the world like a tidal wave of Atlantean proportions.

Then I might go into the history of postal service—harking back to the days of Darius—the fellow you know, who used to tattoo a message on the shaven head of a slave, let the hair grow—and if circumstances had not changed during the period of growth—despatch the messenger to a distant city through enemy lines. There the addressee would shave the cranium of the messenger, read the message, and then knock the slave on the head to prevent him from telling tales—a primitive form of cancellation. The cancelled male in this case would be of little philatelic value.

Well—I could also point out the patent advantages of philately towards the improving of one's geography and historical knowledge, but it seems for me, a layman—to do so, would be very much like a junior school pupil dilating at length to a conclave of mathematicians upon the value of elementary arithmetic.

Well, anyway, I'm not going to follow protocol or inflict you with any heavy and ponderous speech on a subject about which you know more than I. This may sound revolutionary coming from a Postmaster General. It goes without saying that philatelists, as such, know most about a science which they have evolved around the very laudable efforts of governments to provide a speedy, and effective method for the prepayment of postage by means of affixing postage stamps on letters. After all it was you who invented the rules of your game—Philately—not us.

Yet, nonetheless, I say that the acquisition of useful knowledge in a painless and philatelic manner is certainly not to be despised. There must be some parents here tonight who can give personal testimony of the unsurpassed advantage of having philately as the handmaid of child-education—especially when it comes to keeping little Billy or small Mary out of mischief by sublimating their mischievous instincts through interesting them in a hobby as fascinating as it is informative.

Indeed, I think that most of us—whether we belong to organized philatelic groups or not—are philatelists at heart, or have been at some time of our lives. I have yet to see the person who is not intrigued by a new stamp or who regards as just so much cancelled government paper a new issue which may be drawn to his attention when it reaches him affixed to a letter.

Yet, notwithstanding the varied science of philately and its undoubted educational benefits — the hobby I know brings its devotees certain intangible compensations, quite apart from the more material considerations of education or information. Philately provides a "communion of kindred souls" many minds with but a single thought — and the stimulus that comes from the association with

other collectors whether on a national or international plane, by corresponding, by trading stamps, and by discussing the science itself.

It is a good thing when people, leaving the cares and worries of the day behind them, can get together around the table, and pinpoint their attention upon a small, coloured square or oblong of paper, to admire it for its design, colour, perforation, rarity, or for some unique feature.

People engaged in such mutual study or discussion may agree or may differ, but even if they do differ over detail, they are not likely to fall into violent dispute—for they are all bound together in a wonderful band of mutual interest.

It seems to me that what the world needs most today are more philatelists.

Now since philately embraces so wide a field—perhaps a Postmaster General of Canada may be considered a philatelist himself—specializing officially upon the productions of his department, from the standpoint of revenue derived from postage paid.

Now, let me say at the start, that while I am quite agreeable to discussing Postage Stamps from my own field—Postal Revenue—still I won't venture to intrude upon the more advanced aspects of our common science. No, I'll just leave any critical matters, or those of philatelic research to your lenses and consciences and give a little general talk about our Canadien Postage Stamps, and what we are doing in the philatelic line in the Canada Post Office.

Canada's postage stamps, I have been informed by an authority in philatelic matters, are, and for some time past have been among the most popular in the world of stamp collectors. Our country, in fact, has produced some of the most notable stamps ever made. I think few will disagree with me when I say that originality of design has marked Canada's postage stamps from the very first—and I might refer to the high praise they received at the CAPEX Exhibition of September, 1951, from Viscount duParc, the Belgian Ambassador who stated that among the most noteworthy stamps—famous for design and engraving was Canada's beautiful Bluenose Schooner issue, of 1928.

I think that it is safe to remark that most collectors today regard that 1928 Bluenose Stamp as a chef d'oeuvre—though as you are well aware the Post Office is not resting on faded laurels, but is going ahead energetically and scientifically into fields of new design. I will speak of this in a moment.

I am told that there are two schools of philatelic thought—one of which goes in for collecting many colourful stamps of different issues and designs, such as certain other countries put forth. Nor are these groups dismayed because of the fact that many of these beautiful stamps may have little postal significance. The other group, however, demands that the stamps it collects must be based firmly on postal practice, and procedure and that they must not be inflicted like the encores of an ambitious vocalist, on the least possible provocation.

This latter school considers that stamps of a definitive design issued over a period of years yield sufficient varieties and "oddities" and variations in colour and so forth. It is to this group of collectors that Canada's postage stamps have their big appeal.

Regarded, as I have remarked, from the first as a leader in stamp design and workmanship, this high tradition generally speaking, has been maintained, possibly with an exception of one or two which may prove the rule — throughout the long years. So today, the Post Office carries on the tradition set in 1851 — when it issued its famous pictorial—the 3 Penny Beaver—in fact its first stamp—together with those stamps of formal design—the sixpenny Prince Albert and the 12 penny Queen Victoria.

Through our Canadian postage stamps, we seek whenever possible to present the character of this great Canadian nation and of its art.

Two years ago in pursuance of this policy, Canadian artists were invited by the Post Office Department to submit Canadian Postage stamp designs representing any one (or any one significant aspect), of the following general subjects—The Secondary Industries of Canada; Well Known Canadian Wildflowers; the larger Animals of Canada, Portraits of Canadian Indians or Eskimos, Designs Based on Symbols of Native Life, and Canadian Outdoor Activities and Scenes.

A stamp to be issued somewhat along these lines which appeared actually before the appeal I have mentioned was made, was the 10-Cent Fur Resources Stamp of 1950. Many people criticised the design because of what they termed were "Paul Bunyan's Beaver Pelts" so conspicuously displayed in the foreground. Possibly the perspective of those beaver pelts, which are being shown stretched on their frames, could have been better emphasized, to place their size in proper relation to the female figure in the background.

I am quite satisfied, though, that the design was a forward step. However, on April 1, this year there appeared the 20 cent Forestry Products Stamp, which replaced the stamp of the previous design, showing a farm tractor. This stamp—the Forestry Products—has been highly praised for its beauty and originality and is the work of A. L. Pollock of Toronto, who promptly prepared a stamp design after seeing the Post Office Department's call to the Canadian artists. The design, most original in its treatment, symbolizes Canada's Forestry products from the tree to the finished article. Mr. Pollock, by the way, has submitted


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C.P.S. CHAPTER NO. 17

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VISITORS WELCOME

one or two other designs to the Department for postage stamps.

The letters of commendation we received from artists and art critics on the Forestry Products stamp, and other recent issues, have convinced me that the Department is following a sound and progressive course. I am happy to mention that the Post Office Department was highly honoured and gratified because of the support it received, when Canadian artists were first called upon to submit designs, from the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, now our Governor General, who acted as Chairman of a Selection Committee, composed of Professor Charles Comfort, R.C.A., Professor Gladu, and a member of the Post Office Department.

Might I say incidentally that the Post Office Department in issuing its invitation to Canadian artists most definitely did not call for any competition in designs. The artists were and still are invited to submit designs for postage stamps, which enables us to build up a reservoir —and I would add, one has been built—from which Canadian stamp designs can be drawn as needed.

The Department hopes to continue to encourage Canadian artists to contribute designs, and in the future you may expect to see a series of the larger animals of Canada depicted on postage stamps, or Canadian flowers, and Canadian native art, possibly in several colours, and further designs representative of Canada's secondary industries, too, may be expected.

On November 3rd, as you know, the Department issued another stamp of definitely Canadian character—the 7 cent one depicting a Canada Goose in flight. Designed by Emanuel Hahn, R.C.A., S.S.C., Toronto, it is blue in colour and replaces the present 7 cent stamp —the one with Coach and airplane motif, issued as part of the Centenary set in September last year, marking a hundred years of Canadian Postal Administration.

In passing, the special commemorative stamp in two colours marking the International Conference of the Red Cross at Toronto last summer, has likewise been popular with many collectors.

It was back in 1951 we commenced the policy of issuing a series of postage stamps of a Commemorative nature depicting former Canadian Prime Ministers, in the persons of the late W. L. Mackenzie King, and the late Sir Robert Borden.

On November 3, too, we issued another two stamps of this series —honouring — may I repeat — another two former Prime Ministers —the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie and the late Sir John J. C. Abbott. These were put out as part of the Department's policy to ultimately have displayed on postage stamps all of the former Prime Ministers of Canada in order to emphasize their contribution towards the full development of our nationhood. The stamps were designed from photographs supplied by the Public Archives of Canada —the one bearing the likeness of the late Hon. Mr. Mackenzie being orange in colour and of 4 cent denomination, and that of the late Sir John J. C. Abbott, purple, three cents.

Now, as we all know, mistakes will happen and an amusing incident occurred which shows how often people will blame the Post Office for sins which it never committed. This was in connection with the announcement regarding the issue of one of these stamps.

Some busy scribe mistook the name of Sir John J. C. Abbott for that of our very much alive Minister of Finance, Douglas Abbott and the word went forth that Mr. Abbott's portrait was to appear on a postage stamp.

Well, one newspaper was particularly critical. Thinking over the incident an occasion came to my mind where one Postmaster General did reap the whirlwind nearly a century ago when he allowed his

own portrait to appear on a postage stamp. This happened in New Brunswick when it was still a separate British Colony. The province having discarded the British system of accounting in pounds, shillings and pence adopted the decimal system and decided to put into circulation stamps of the denomination of 1, 5, 10, 12½ and 17 cents. The Postmaster General of the province, Charles Connell, whose family originally hailed from the U.S.A., and who I suppose had a more democratic viewpoint than those whose lives were based on a more conservative tradition, decided to have his own portrait, instead of that of the reigning Sovereign, Queen Victoria—on a five-cent stamp of the issue. American Presidents and Postmasters General had their portraits on stamps of their own country — so why should he not follow their example? He acted in good faith, and quite without the knowledge of his colleagues in the Cabinet. These, hearing of his action were quick to disagree and made representations to the Lieutenant-Governor to have the stamps stopped, before issue. Connell remained firm in his determination to issue the stamps—and resigned office. With his departure the stamps bearing his portrait were banned and were never issued. However, a few escaped destruction and are now the prized possessions of collectors.

I am glad to inform you that collectors have no cause to fear that the Post Office will abandon its traditional policy in the issue of Commemorative stamps, and to state that only those great Canadians who have passed on will be thus commemorated. I can assure our critics that we will never reduce stamps to a publicity medium by a display of the portraits—be they ever so photogenic—of living Cabinet Ministers.

You have no cause to fear, moreover, that the Post Office Department will abandon its traditional policy of restraint when it comes to putting out new issues—so that any accusation of exploitation of the philatelic fraternity cannot justly be made.

This season recalls to me that it was just a little over a year ago that we issued the 4 cent purple Commemorative stamp on October 26, 1951, to mark the visit of the Princess Elizabeth, now our Queen, and her Royal Consort—the Duke of Edinburgh.

The thought occurs how Canada, after all, never issues stamps merely to make pretty pictures. The subjects always have some revealing interest, or significance and carry a story.

Thus we can trace on our stamps the life of our Queen, from childhood to the throne. The first time I believe that Her Majesty's portrait appeared on a Canadian stamp was in the 1 cent green George V Golden Jubilee series of 1935—some stamps of this issue being famous among you as "The Weeping Princess" copies, in which a tiny flaw appeared below the


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eye of the little girl, who is now our Queen.

Again, as you remember Her Majesty appeared with her sister, the Princess Margaret on the Royal Visit series of 1939. The years slip by so fast that it scarcely seems that nearly five years have gone since her portrait appeared on that graceful blue stamp issued in 1948 by the Canada Post Office in commemoration of her marriage to The Duke of Edinburgh in 1947. Then last year, as I have recalled, we issued the double stamp commemorating the Royal Visit.

And now she has ascended to the throne. Designs and engravings are now being prepared of the five denominations, one cent, two cent, three cent, four cent and five cent stamps to replace the portrait of the late Sovereign with that of our Queen. In addition we will also have to replace the portrait of the late King George VI on postcards, envelopes, stamps in books, and stamps on rolls—and so, collectors, you had better start saving your money!

We think that the designs will be much more interesting than those issued in the past and I feel you will get good value for your money.

Just what the designs of the new stamps will be—well that's still a state secret. I am not at liberty to say, but the announcement will be made sometime later—certainly by spring.

I must caution you that we will not try to be the first Commonwealth country to issue stamps to mark the accession of the new Sovereign—but we will not be the last.

May I close my short address to you on this note, and in closing call your attention to our Postage Stamp section of the Philatelic Division of the Financial Branch, of the Post Office Department, Ottawa, which exists to serve your needs. Away back in 1932 the Department established this bureau at headquarters to cater to collectors and it has grown into the Philatelic Section of the Postage Stamp Division. In establishing this Postage Stamp Section the principal object was not so much to make revenue, as it was to promote a pleasant relationship between the Post Office and Philatelists the world over—a policy in which we have been more than successful. Our philatelic service is held in the highest regard by old and young who range from the small-scale purchaser to the collector with whom money is no object. Men and women, boys and girls, from here, there and everywhere write in to the Philatelic Section and often tell us that they have become interested in Canada and her people just because of our postage stamp issues. Here indeed is a form of Post Office publicity which may reap our country many good citizens all the better for being philatelists—today and in days to come.

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CHAPTER NO. 14 C.P.S.

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday

**Congratulations**

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**ON ITS**

**SILVER ANNIVERSARY**

# COVERS . . . . AND HOW TO GET THEM

*by Maxine Cole, Forrest, Manitoba*

**This article was awarded the $10.00 prize for this issue. Members are invited to submit articles for publication.**

COVER collecting can be varied and interesting. Choose the subject you wish to specialize in and then go to work.

People living near a seaport may more easily collect ship and paquebot cancels. By consulting the daily newspaper, it is quite simple to ascertain the time of arrival and sailing of the different ships and also the launching of new ones.

In the United States you may have any post office, slogan, meter or ship cancel just for the asking. Also first days, special events and first flights. There is no charge and lists of these are published in all stamp magazines to help the collector.

In Canada it is more difficult. We have rules which must be obeyed and, as far as we know, there is no magazine which publish lists of any kind.

I would like to have one of every slogan cancel issued in Canada but I have no way of knowing where or when these are used.

When asking for a cover, write a pleasant, courteous letter to the person you wish to contact. State your wishes and always end with a "THANK YOU". Remember, these people are doing you a favor. Sometimes you get it, sometimes you don't.

Our newspapers usually forecast important events. Read them and get your prepared cover sent in on time. The date on the post mark is perhaps the most important part of a cover.

Did you know that you can write any member of the Royal Family and you will receive a reply? Not a personal reply, but through a secretary. The best time to do this is on a special occasion, such as sickness, a wedding, a birthday, etc. I have covers from Princess Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Mother Elizabeth, Queen Mother Mary, The Duke of Windsor and King George VI. The King's I received just a month before his death. Each cover has its own crest and other special cancellations. No two are alike.

People and Royalty in foreign countries can also be contacted.

I have a cover from Viscount Alexander. This is autographed and was sent during his last week in Canada.

I saw in a magazine that the 5 cent centennial stamp was the picture of a certain ship. I made up a cover and sent it to the Captain. It was returned with the ship's cancel and is autographed. These and many more covers all tie in with the history of Canada as it goes along year by year, which adds to the fascination of collecting them.

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# HELPING THE KIDS

*Edgar W. S. Spurgeon*

*Showing what one club has done outside it's regular meetings.*

THE President of the C.P.S. has asked me to tell something of the activities of the North Toronto Stamp Club outside of the club meetings themselves—which means of course, their interests in Junior Collectors.

The main interest was actually started by Bill Freeman, our worthy president, some years ago, when, as a member of both the N.T.S.C. and the Toronto North Lions Club, he suggested that the two clubs work together on one of the Lions' biggest interests, the I.O.D.E. Hospital for Convalescent Children in North Toronto.

The set-up was for the Lions to provide the funds for albums and supplies for the children, and the Stamp Club the stamps and the workers to teach the children about our favorite hobby.

May I say here that the Lions Club have faithfully done their share by meeting all the bills presented to them promptly and without question, the workers from the Stamp Club being left to purchase whatever they deem necessary.

The Superintendent and Nurses at the Hospital soon realized that Stamp Collecting is a wonderful thing for the children, and all the staff willingly co-operate in the work. Each year this work has been highly praised in their annual report.

The children are taught geography through their stamps and interesting items about each country, through the reasons for the different issues of stamps.

At first this hospital was entirely for convalescent children and the sessions were carried on around the tables in the dining hall, with up to thirty children taking part, but latterly the hospital has centred its work on children who have been exposed to tubercular infection, and they are, consequently, nearly all bed patients, so now it is necessary to visit them at their bedsides.

Under these conditions stamp collecting is an especially beneficial interest, for they can carry on with this in a restful and quiet way while sitting up in bed.

Visits are made throughout the year on every second Saturday from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., except the months of July and August.

The children who collect range in age from 8 or 9 to 15 years of age. They are first given one of the cheap albums, worth about 25c or 40c, and when they have a collection of 600 varieties, neatly mounted, they are given an album worth from $2.50 to $3.00 each, in which they remount their stamps and carry on from there.

Some of them leave the hospital with collections of as high as 5,000 varieties.

The reason for the cheap album at first is that some do not maintain sufficient interest to carry through, and thus there is less waste, but, often, as they see other children graduate to the finer albums, they will show an increased interest and go at it again.

Strip films are shown from time to time to increase their interest in stamps and the countries issuing them.

Each year we take three or four of the best albums to our annual Stamp Exhibition and display them together with a poster telling of

the work at the hospital and suggesting that gifts of stamps would be very acceptable. We are glad to say that this has resulted in our receiving stamps which we might not otherwise get for the children.

I have personally been engaged in this work for about eight years, and have found it a very absorbing and interesting experience. Working at this gives one an added interest in, and knowledge of the stamps of the world that is not realized when one confines their philatelic interests to one or two countries.

Every child is made a member of the CBC Stamp Club of the Air, and twice the Christmas broadcasts of this club have featured a visit to the hospital. These broadcasts have resulted in much material coming in from all the way across Canada.

Personally I have found it necessary to give up this work, as I have moved farther away from the hospital, and have taken up junior work in the district around my home, but the work is being ably carried on by Mr. J. D. L. Stansfield and a committee of four or five helpers. It is impossible for one person to do this work alone and do it satisfactorily. The workers have to visit three wards, two of girls and one of boys, and no worker should be expected to look after more than six or eight children, or some will be in advertently neglected.

I recommend an activity like this to all Stamp Clubs across the country, no matter how small or how large. It will be found to be an absorbing interest that will help bring the members of the club closer together, as it has in the case of the North Toronto Stamp Club, insomuch that the club not only provides stamps for the children but also maintains a cot at the hospital, through funds available and through Donation Auctions.

There is no doubt that activities




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such as this will help increase the number of adult collectors in the future.

The parents of the children also take an interest in this activity of their children and encourage them by bringing material to the children that we do not often obtain. Just before Christmas I saw one of the youngsters with a beautiful and superb copy of a "Penny Black" which was bought for her by her mother. Usually the parents bring them the most colorful stamps they can find, and these seem to interest the children most, so the instructor has to read up on these things, and explain what they are and why issued.

Any clubs wishing further information on this kind of work, as we find it, may write to Mr. Stansfield at 40 Petman, Toronto 12, Ont., or to me, Edgar W. Spurgeon, 122 Ellerslie Ave., Willowdale, Ont. I also know that if President Bill Freeman is visiting your club, he will gladly tell you of this work which he started.

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# AUSTRIAN CHARITIES

*(SCOTT No. B1-276, M31-3 and No. 377 and No. 381)*

*by Dr. Richard Maresch*

*An extremely interesting article on the background of these stamps, written by one who had a hand in forming the policy of the Government at that time.*

HAVING been once partly instrumental in the forming of the policy of the Austrian Government concerning the issue of Charity Stamps I want to show in the following a general insight into the background of Austrian Charity Issues.

Imperial Austria first turned to the issuing of Charity Stamps in the beginning of World War I. In order to avoid that Charity Stamps be turned into a political debate by Parliament, the project was submitted directly to Emperor Francis Joseph I who signed the necessary decree for the authorization of this issue. In this way it was obviated that the representatives of the various nations that composed Austria-Hungary could turn this matter into one of their usual squabbles in order to stress their national viewpoints, prerogatives, and susceptibilities.

The first issue had only a very small surcharge (2 Heller) per stamp which went into a fund supervised by the Emperor. But as the population of Austria-Hungary (not counting Hungary with her 14 millions for whom Hungarian Charity stamps were issued) was about 42 millions, the revenue from this issue was sufficiently large.

This issue, and the two following ones that appeared during the time of the Monarchy, were put out in UNLIMITED quantities, i.e.: no definite number was set in anticipation but new printings followed each other whenever exhausted. The numbers printed are not known but run easily into many millions and when the 1914 issue was superceded by the 1915 set (Army Forces) remainders must have been large. They were turned over to the Postal Archives, as it was not customary to destroy remainders. These were later handed over to the Philatelic Window in Vienna and were obtainable at its wickets.

The above applies also to the second and last issue (Army Forces) during the rule of Francis Joseph I. Under Charles I only one Charity set was put out and this was restricted to the use of the fieldpost offices in occupied territories. Again, as under his predecessor, Parliament debates were shunned by having the Emperor personally decree the issue. This time however it was officially proclaimed as for the "KARL'S FUND" by which name this set is known in Austria.

Collectors should however know that this set circulated almost exclusively in Poland alone, as the national pride of other occupied territories was carefully guarded. Poland itself was considered as more or less a friendly nation to be liberated from Russia and therefore willing to contribute to War Charity, especially as many thousands of Poles were fighting on Austria's side and were participating in the proceeds of this issue.

Nevertheless their commercial use was a very limited one and such cancellations are desirable. The sudden desintegration of the Empire left huge quantities of this issue in the stock of the Philatelic Window and were for many years obtainable there.

ANY other cancellations of the KARLSFOND issue, especially in other countries than Poland are suspicious and, if not philatelic ones, faked obliterations.

The first issue of the Austrian Republic is, according to Scott (B11-29) the Carinthia Plebiscite Charity set. Actually Scott is wrong. This is NOT a Charity issue and should be classified under the regular postage stamps as many catalogues do. When the Government decided on this issue it was hampered by the supervision of the Allies. It feared, and was probably informed by them, that an issue raising funds to frustrate one of their allies (Serbia) to obtain territories claimed by it, was non grata.

As the Government however badly needed funds to organize the necessary canvassing for the retention of Carinthia by Austria, and as the Government was as good as bankrupt, such funds could only be raised by voluntary contributions. The Government resorted therefore to issuing regular postage stamps valid throughout Austria but charged three times face for their purchase. As the moneys raised this way were used to finance a political purpose and NO Charity, it obviously cannot be considered as a Charity issue.

The following year brought a disastrous inundation by the Danube, and the Government issued the first real Charity set of the Republic. But as the Government had not realized how small Austria had shrunk to, it decreed a long set of 20 stamps which it sold in the same manner as the Plebiscites at three times face.

Both issues proved, outside of collectors, unpopular. As in the times of the Empire they were put out in UNLIMITED quantities, that is they were printed to be sold out eventually. It is customary to give the quantities printed of the Plebiscites as 300,000 sets and of the Flood set as 400,000. This is however misleading, as the lower values were issued in far greater quantities. At best we may take the data given as referring to complete sets printed. In any case huge quantities remained unsold, went to the Philatelic Window adding heavily to the accumulation there and NOT fulfilling the intentions of the Government to procure funds for the sponsored causes.

This double fiasco brings us to consider the problems with which the Republic was faced and to enter into the procedure of issuing Charity stamps.

Contrary to the procedure in the Empire the Parliament was the institution that authorized such issues as there was no fear anymore that representatives of other nations could obstruct such authorization.

The procedure was the following: (1st step) there had to be an urgent necessity for the proposal to issue a Charity set. As such emergencies were galore in a Government as bankrupt as the Austrian a SPECIAL Committee was appointed to sift such proposals (2nd step) when they had decided on a deserving cause their finding would be returned to the Parliament (3rd step) which would then either approve or reject the petition (4th step) and then turn the project over to the Minister of Finances who would allocate the necessary funds for the project (5th step). This would be again submitted to the Parliament that would either agree with the sum allotted, or cut it down or augment it (6th step) after which the Postmaster General would be authorized to issue a Charity set, the surcharge value of which would have to cover the amount allotted to the sponsored cause (7th step).

The real difficulty however was TO SELL the Charity set to the public so that THE WHOLE amount alloted would be obtained. As soon as the sales began the moneys would be trickling slowly in but nobody could foretell how long it would take to reach the alloted sum or whether it would ever be obtained. Naturally the emergency victims could not wait indefinitely and the Government had to reach into the pockets of the exchequer fondly hoping that it

would be reimbursed in the end. As the responsible men in the Government seemed unable to accustom themselves to the small size of shoes they had shrunk to the allocations of funds were generally too large and the returns from the sets—longdrawn out and always far below expectations—only increased the difficulties of the exchequer. This sorry state of affairs went on until the Nibelungen (1926) issue when it came to such a head that the issue of Charity sets was even interrupted for one year.

There were several reasons for these setbacks. First, the idea of levying several times face on the stamps instead of indicating their sales value clearly was cumbersome. Not only that, John Doe was suspicious that he was overcharged by the postofficial and the official himself had to do complicated bookkeeping, one amount for the postoffice, another one to the Charity Fund, and was loath to press such stamps on the public. There also happened quite a few unintentional and intentional miscalculations and the deficit was always on the side of the Government.

On the other hand mere overprints and changes of colour and paper were not sufficient to evoke sympathy with these issues, an obstacle that was speedily surmounted by creating appealing subjects. The first of these issues were the Musicians but unluckily the Government charged TEN times face for them and John Doe considered himself again "done", though the unforeseen collapse of the Austrian Krone was mostly instrumental for that raise.

With the Towns (1923) the Government tried to overcome the sales resistance by lowering the sales value to five times face but in order to obtain the projected allotment they raised the basic value of the set rigorously. As a result both sets remained unsold in huge quantities. With the Symbols set (1924) the Government tried to overcome another obstacle by indicating clearly the purchase price


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on the stamps. Unluckily they blundered in another way by drastically reducing the format of the set (to save expenses) and by using "modernistic" designs, a fact that was strongly resented by the conservative Austrians. The sale of this set was worst of all the Charities issued up till then. The Government reverted therefore to large sized stamps in designs that recalled older issues not only in subject and theme, but in framework too, and followed by putting low surcharge values on the stamps. Nevertheless this set resulted again in a flop mostly due to the enormous quantities in which it was issued, and to the fact that the set could be obtained by single values.

Now at last the Postmaster General decided to follow advices that had been given him some time ago.

In 1923 a consortium of Austrian Stamp Dealers had approached him and had offered to purchase all the remainders of the Musician issue at regular sales prices (2000 Kronen per set). Happy to get rid of part of the quantities amassed, the Postmaster General agreed and the consortium (to which I belonged) purchased 8000 complete sets for 16 Million Kronen. In 1924 the same consortium was applying for the purchase of the remainders of the Town set when the leftist press began to attack him for selling to a group of favoured dealers instead of giving John Doe the chance to get the set whenever he felt like it. Though the Postmaster General pointed out that it was to the benefit of the exchequer to receive a large sum at once instead of waiting years to accumulate the same amount, the Socialist Party was strong enough to make him shy away from other sales to the consortium. As no other buyers appeared and in view of the heavy accumulations the Postmaster decided to have the remainders of the Towns and (next year) of the Symbols burned. As the smallest quantity of the latter set had been sold (mostly due to the suggestion to sell Charities in complete sets only) the Symbols are probably the best of all Austrian Charity issues though not one catalogue gives an indication of it.

During these conferences the Postmaster General had however learned a few facts about philatelic life formerly unknown to him. He called in a Committee of Vienna Stamp Dealers to submit to him suggestions how to overcome the difficulties he had to cope with.

Our suggestions were approximately the following:

1) The Government should issue sets that would appeal by their beauty and their subjects to the collectors (first result: Towns).

2) The surcharge value of the stamps should be indicated and so small that even not well heeled collectors could obtain a set (first result a proposed 50,000 plus 150,-000 Kronen value in the Symbols was dropped from issue).

3) To limit the quantity of sets so that a quick sale of the entire printing would be obtained. We based this on the fact that about 25,000 collectors were subscribed for new issues at the Philatelic Window (at present about 45,000 are subscribed) who would be well able to purchase at least one set if the sales price would not exceed about U.S. $1.

4) To sell in complete sets only. (This was first tried with the Symbols but proved, because of other reasons, disastrous). Because of this flop the Government persisted in its older policy with the Nibelungen set. When the remainders of this issue, in which the Government had followed quite a few of our suggestions, did not result in a complete sell out, this set was still available when the Nazis marched in in March, 1938. The Postmaster after several further meetings with our committee issued the following Charity sets in accordance with our suggestions.

With the Hainisch (1928) set, therefore, began the II. Period of Policy and lasted, with a few exceptions, until the FIS II (1936) issue.

I. Period: Charity sets in un-

limited quantities, sold singly (one exception: Symbols).

II. Period: Charity sets in limited quantities sold in sets (exceptions are Ski I and II, Winterhelp I and II where the lower values—though printed in limited quantities, were issued in larger quantities and obtainable by single copies).

III. Period: Charity sets in limited but large quantities began with the INVENTORS (1936) but sale of complete sets was maintained.

The motives to change to Policy III are the following: The fact that the sets in limited quantities were almost immediately sold out had some very favorable consequences: First, the Government needed no more to advance funds from the exchequer but got the proposed sums in shortest time from the buyers. Secondly many unemployed made it good business to line up on the proclaimed salesday before the postoffice wickets and obtain a set (only one set per person was allowed) and then move to the end of the line where they found ready purchasers at premium prices. They then entered the line again and continued to buy till the sets were exhausted. Thirdly, collectors realized soon that the small quantities issued guaranteed an increase of value in the near future and instead of waiting for the sets to come round to them, rushed to get hold of them as soon as possible. This way the overwhelming majority of the sets REMAINED in Austria thereby contributing to the upbuild of wealth in the country. This point is generally overlooked not only by Governments but also by collectors, namely, that Philatelic treasures do augment the wealth of a country as well as treasures of other kinds (antiques, paintings, etc.). In our times we have seen demonstrated how such accumulations helped many collectors and investors over a period of financial hardship.

On the other hand the Government remarked that our proposals carried with them several draw-

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backs. First, due to the small quantities issued, the sum total alloted to the sponsored causes was comparatively small, (the Poets issue released only 125,000 Shilling, that is about $25,000 for the help of Youth in Distress, a pitiful sum in view of the many hundred thousands who had to be succoured from this amount. Secondly, the Postmaster General was strongly attacked by following another of our suggestions (No. 5), namely: to limit the sale of Charity sets to postoffices in Vienna. When we had suggested this we had based it on the fact that almost 40% of the Austrian population lived in Vienna and also that here was more wealth than in the provinces. The provinces had not objected to that decision in the Parliament as long as the sale of Charity stamps was a drug on the market. Now when a golden rain began to descend on the buyers and a set sometimes attained double purchase value in a few hours, people in the provinces began to object to being left out from these opportunities. By allocating quantities to the capitals of the different provinces, the amount of sets available in Vienna were so shortened that purchasers began to grumble there, whereas the buyers in the provinces were also not satisfied as the alloted quantities were also insufficient. Again the Postmaster General was accused not only of favoritism but also of allowing money to slip by that was urgently needed for alleviating distress.

It is therefore understandable that the Postmaster General seeing that the formerly despised Charity issues were now in eager demand not only in Austria but also abroad, decided to switch over into the III. Period of Policy, i.e. to issue Charity Stamps to be sold in sets but in large quantities which policy seems to be followed up to date. I have stressed these motives in order to show that all the hulla baloo of some collectors, "that such issues are mainly put out to milk the collectors" was not so in the issuance of Austrian Charities.

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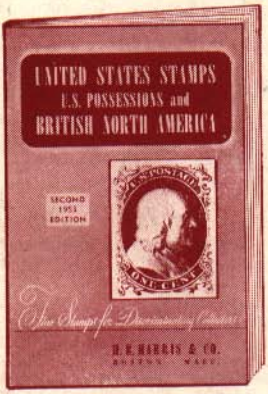
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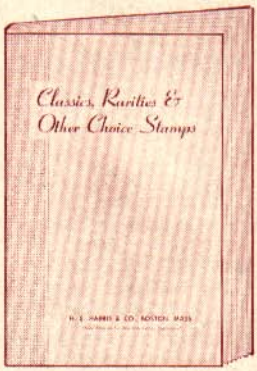

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