The Canadian Philatelist
Le philatéliste canadien

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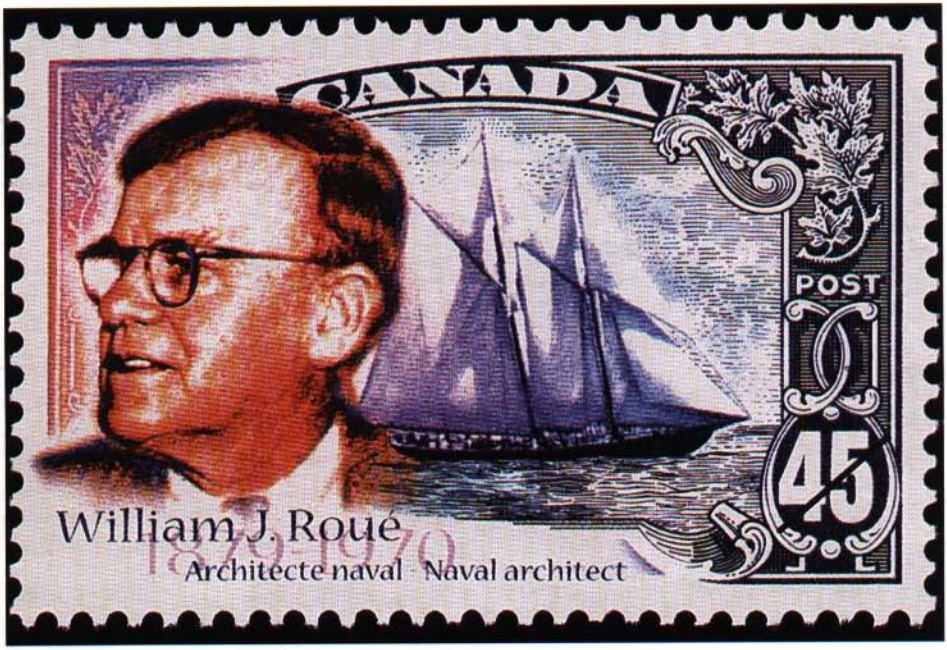
Journal of The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA

Revue de la SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA



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Issued on July 24, 1998 this stamp honors the famous design of wooden sailing vessels. William Roue's Bluenose was launched on March 26, 1921 and competed and won all international races for over two decades. The ship was first shown on the 1929 series in a 50 cent value.

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From the Editor's Desk

by J.J. MacDonald

PHOTO FUN AT THE ROYAL

A complete report on The Royal Convention held in Hamilton, Ontario May 29-31, 1998, will be published in a later issue, but I now wish to congratulate the organizers of the 'show'.

I've not seen such a roster of dealers as composed this bourse. The exhibits were excellent. So far I have only two photographs from the show.

The first (left) is of our President, Keith Spencer, presenting Alan MacKanna, FRPSC, with a special gold medal for his over 40 years of service to the Royal. He can never be replaced, whether for sound advice, unstinting service or the wonderfully warm personality he brought to every meeting and event. We all send Alan every good wish and a little relaxation – at least until another Royal crisis needs him again.

The second photo on the right, shows your editor presenting the 1997 Geldart Medal to William Robinson, FRPSC. This award is given to the author of the best article or series that appeared in the 1997 volume of our journal. Bill's series on the postal history of the Klondike was selected by the Geldart panel. Congratulations and keep those interesting pieces coming, Bill. I plead both as editor and a history buff.

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

• Stanley Gibbons, that wonderful old British firm, has been sold. To whom? To Flying Flowers Limited for 13.5 million pounds. No, it's no joke. Flying Flowers is a mail order horticultural specialist firm based in Jersey.

Why, for heaven's sake, you ask?

continued on page 227

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY?

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

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

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

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

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Well, the Chairman of Flying Flowers states that "The Stanley Gibbons business fits our previously stated acquisition criteria, namely market leading brands in profitable niche markets in the mail order sector with organic growth opportunities." So be careful! Your order for penny reds, if not clearly written, might get you salvia seeds or even the new rhubarb plants. The stamp world overseas has generally viewed the acquisition favourably.

• On June 8th the British Library reopened its superb permanent philatelic exhibition of 1,000 frames. Relocated to 96 Euston Road, St. Pancreas, London, the new display features, among other things, the Mosely Collections of British Africa; the Turner Collection of world stamp forgeries; the Langmead Collection of the British and Irish telegraph stamps and postal stationary; a U. S. 1918, 24 cent 'inverted Jenny'; a letter from John Alcock to his sister carried on the first successful crossing of the Atlantic from Newfoundland in 1919; balloon covers from the siege of Paris in 1870 and other rarities all from the Fitzgerald Collection.

There are also mails by pigeon from New Zealand's Great Barrier Island. If you are in London this summer or anytime soon, don't miss this wonderful exhibit. Admission is free.

• The new smaller format 45 cent flag definitive is the fourth of these flags. The first was issued on the last day of July, 1995. It was printed by Leigh Mardon in Australia, is perforated 14.5 and has a dark blue background which easily distinguishes it from the later ones.

Just over two months later, the Canadian Bank Note Company began to print these definitives, using a coated © paper perforated 13.8 by 13.2 in a lighter shade of blue. Only six months later the CBNC began printing on the Peterborough (P) paper which has a white gum and is translucent when viewed under a light on the reverse.

It is not easy to separate this third issue in the case of used stamps. Finally, we have the smaller size issued in 1998. CBNC and Ashton-Potter are the printers. These make a nice little group to attempt to assemble.

• Over a year ago, a long time printer of excellent stamps in Britain ceased to be. Harrison and Sons has been bought out by De La Rue, making the latter the main supplier of stamps for the B.P.O. It is one of the few in the world that uses all the different print processes for stamps: photogravures, offset, lithography and intaglio.

Their new press now has the capacity to run two jobs at once, printing more than 6,000,000 stamps an hour in up to 10 colors in photogravure. This process gives high volume production where the image is etched or engraved into the surface of a copper cylinder.

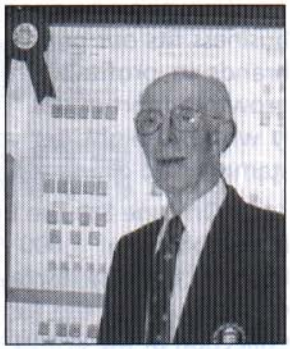
Computer controlled diamond tipped cutters produce the engraving from digital images. The cylinder is then chromium plated to protect the image and extend life. The Diana, Princess of Wales, stamps were produced this way.

LONG TIME COLLECTORS

Harold Gosney, pictured here, has been a collector for 72 years and has just exhibited for the 51st consecutive year at the North Toronto Stamp Club.

Members of the NTSC are asking if this is not also a record. Harold again won the Grand Award for his exhibit of De La Rue Key Types.

Any nominees to beat this record?



Harold Gosney

REQUEST FOR HELP!!!

We are very pleased to pass along two appeals for information. They speak for themselves.

Dear Fellow Collectors: Recently I started a collection of Expo '67. One of the covers I just purchased was from the "Canadian Centennial Copter Project." Enclosed was an information card that told about the project, number of covers flown from each point where mailings were made, which would be listed in a book *Canada: Centennial Panorama.* Can you tell me about any of the above?

Thank you,
Rev. G. Sherman Ott
P.O. Box 368
Bolivar, PA
15923-0368
USA

Dear Collectors: I enclose a photocopy of part of a cover from Hamilton, ON, postmarked June 16, 1941. The sender is shown as the "Canadian Stamp Collectors' Fund for Britain's war victims, sponsored by the Canadian Philatelic Society."

I realize that the CPS was the forerunner of the RPSC but I wonder if any reader can tell me anything more about this group, the fund, and its success. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joshua Hodgson
1 East Haven Drive
Scarborough, Ont.
M1N 1L8

YOUNG STAMP COLLECTORS - AND THOSE WHO ENCOURAGE THEM

Canada Post Corporation has again reached out to young collectors with both hands. In one is "Stampin' the Future" and in the other, the new Stamp Traveller's Club.

The new Stamp Traveller's Club is the successor to a previous club. It is designed for 8 to 12-year-olds and is called 'Stamp Quest - Timbre Manie'. A member begins with a starter kit which includes a magnifying glass, tongs, stock pages, mount and a small selection of stamps, together with a collecting handbook. Everything is packaged in a polyester zipper binder and the price includes a two year membership in Stamp Quest, which is an on-going Canada Post sponsored club.

The entire package costs $19.95 and is available from either the Canada Post Philatelic Centre in Antigonish, N. S. or from many postal outlets.

This is an attractive package. The sturdy binder is first rate and the stamps are pretty and suitable for children. The stamps include animal, sport, art and flower designs from countries around the world as well as a mint strip of five of Canada's comic book hero series. The information in the handbook is creatively presented but lacks detail which most likely will be included in future material received as a result of club membership. This package is a great bargain for a Christmas or birthday present as parents or grandparents can find anywhere. However, it still lacks some of the appeal and savy that the British Post Office include in their Stamp Bug Club.

The Hon. Alfonso Gagliano, Minister responsible for Canada Post (left) and the Hon. André Ouellet, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Canada Post joined Perf, Canada Post's Stamp Club Mascot and local children in the Stampin' in the Future, a national children's stamp design contest to celebrate the new millennium. The contest begins Sept. 9, 1998 and ends Oct. 31, 1998.

L'honorable Alfonso Gagliano, ministre responsable de Postes Canada (à gauche), anisi que l'honorable André Ouellet, président du Conseil d'administration de Postes Canada (à droit) se sont joints à Perf, la mascotte du Club de la philatélie de Postes Canada et à un groupe d'enfants pour «Timbrons l'avenir», concours national de dessins d'enfants pour marquer le millénaire. Le concours débute le 9 septembre 1998 et se termine le 31 octobre 1998.

The second thrust by Canada Post into the younger market was launched in early June 1998 when 'Stampin' in the Future', a design contest for children was announced.

Young collectors are asked to submit artwork to show their thoughts and visions of the future. This is part of a larger contest initiated by the United States Postal Service and Canada will be among more than 30 participating countries. Ten designs from each province and territory will be selected by local juries and finalists will be chosen by Canada Post's Stamp Advisory Committee. There will be 25 runners-up and 4 winners.

Entries will be accepted between September 9th and October 31st, 1998 and the grand prize winners will be announced next July. Their art will be on four special commemorative stamps to be launched in March 2000. The winners from each country will also gather in July 2000 in Anaheim, California for a special global celebration. What a great way to honor creative young collectors.❐

Editorial

by J.J. MacDonald

Another View of Stamp Conventions

An astute reader will realize there is no normal sermon by your editor in this issue. There is, rather, a conributed piece, which follows. It has been received from a good acquaintance, whose identity will never be divulged. Comments and reactions to the views expressed are most welcome.

I loved my husband when I married him and this in spite of knowing he was a stamp collector. After all, as he said, half seriously, stamps came first with him and I came second. I have even, over the years, attended many stamp conventions with him. I am not sure how much care and attention convention organizers put into thinking about the situation of spouses at their gatherings. In saying this I realize it is possible for husbands of women collectors to be at conventions as spouses, but this is likely less common. What follows is my point of view on what makes a convention a nicer and more welcoming place for wives.

Information. For spouses in particular, having local tourist information available the evening before the convention is helpful. With local maps and guidebooks, wives can decide what it is they want to do during the time of the convention. I would guess that municipal tourist offices are more than happy to supply these. Even maps of the convention itself would be helpful.

It is always helpful to be able to identify other wives. Name badges help, with designated symbols, coloured stickers for various categories of people, such as exhibitors, dealers, organizers and spouses. And on the subject of name badges, most women prefer the kind of tag that hangs around your neck to those which need to be stuck to or pinned on clothing. Somehow these last two kinds do more damage to women's garments than to men's. With name tags, not only can I easily identfy other spouses, but I can also determine that the person next to me in the elevator is a convention organizer and can tell me where to locate events. As well, I can be certain that I don't rant about how much my husband spends on stamps to a representative of the dealer whom he has been cultivating for years.

A hospitality room or other designated location, where wives can meet, whether for morning coffee, or at other times of the day, would be nice. That way I could meet other women and make plans for the day and I wouldn't always have to eat lunch alone, while my husband is off at a lecture or spending money at the bourse. I might even find someone who shares my interests and likes to hunt for handicrafts, visit museums, or just take a walk. Wives don't know each other as well as their husbands know other collectors, and can feel lonely and isolated at conventions.

A program of activities for wives would also be welcome. The organizers might plan this themselves, or get their wives involved in the organization of events for women. Day-time excursions to places of local interest, including walking tours, shopping or other activities might be interesting for many wives and might even encourage them to attend conventions with their husbands. Sign-ups for lunches in interesting local restaurants might be another way for women to meet each other.

continued on page 232

The President's Page
La page du président

by / par Keith Spencer

Greetings from sunny Alberta!

It used to be that stamp collecting was a seasonal activity with albums stored away until the first winter snows arrived. But if Royal activity is any standard, our members are very busy stamping around the country this summer and our Toronto offices are humming.

One issue which has been a source of concern for our members is the status of the Sales Circuit. This is a program which has been a Society masterpiece for many years. In fact, as I think back, those yellow Royal circuit books were the main attraction which brought me to the Society many years ago.

Some bottom line financial realities have caused your Directors to conclude that the current program - which is costing your Society close to $6,000 per anum to sustain, must be wound up and replaced with a more viable operation. This current planning is very much the focus of our effort at the moment and further announcements will follow in due course. We know that the circuit situation has worried a goodly number of our members: your letters tell us so. Be assured that our goal is to be able to continue to provide this program activity in a manner which is finanically prudent and ensures the continued functioning of the Society and its many other activities.

Busy! I did say "busy" didn't I? Those of you who receive dealer mailings likely have noted the inclusion of personalized Royal membership application cards. This new venture is one of the products of a recently signed working arrangement with the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association, and preliminary results are most promising as we work to "Grow the Royal"

Salutations de l'Alberta ensoleillée!

On a l'habitude de dire que la philatélle est un passe-temps saisonnier; les albums étant mis à l'écart et ressortis aux premiéres neiges. Mais les activités de la Royale le prouvent: nos membres sont philatéllquement trés occupés ces temps-ci à la grandeur du pays, et nos bureaux de Toronto vrombissent!

Une question qui retient particullèrement l'attention de nos membres concerne le circuit d'échanges; cette activité qui a été une pierre angulaire de notre Société durant de nombreuses années. En fait, si je me rappelle bien, ce sont ces carnets jaunes de circulation qui ont été la principale raison de mon adhésion à la Royale, il y a plusieurs années.

Des aspects purement financiers ont poussé vos directeurs à la conclusion que le programme actuel de carnets d'échanges, qui coûte à notre Société prés de $6,000 par année à soutenir, doit être revu et remplacé par une opération davantage viable. Cette situation occupe en ce moment tous nos esprits, et nous vous tiendrons au courant des développements futurs. Nous savons que la situation du circuit d'échanges a inquiété bon nombre de nos membres: vos lettres en sont la preuve. Soyez assurés que notre objectif est de trouver les moyens de continuer à vous offrir ce service, mais d'une manière financièrement acceptable, qui ne mettra pas en péril notre société et ses nombreuses aux activités.

Occupé! Vous avez dit occupé! N'est-ce pas? Ceux d'entre-vous qui reçoivent des envois postaux de marchands ont peut-étre reçu, dernièrement, des cartes d'application personnalisées pour devenir membre de la Royale. Cette procédure est une nouvelle façon de promouvoir notre Société, et elle résulte d'une entente que nous avons signée avec l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste. Les premiers résultats sont encourageants. Nous sulvons notre devise: «Grandire avec la Royale!»

A new Chapter benefit worthy of note is the Royal Chapter Liability Program. Many Chapters have struggled to obtain insurance coverage for meetings and show activities. Now, this can be achieved at a most modest cost of $65 per year. Contact your Society office for program information.

Good things are happening at the Royal! We've just come from a most wonderful Hamilton Convention - thanks one more time to all the organizers and workers who created such a success.

And the "Philatelist" is on time! Thanks to our editor, Dr. J.J. MacDonald and our new printers, Trajan Publishing. And your Directors are busy too - working to make the Royal an even better value and trying to keep up with all the colourful and interesting Canada Post issues which seem to arrive almost daily this summer.

Happy stamping and have a grand summer!❐

Un nouvel avantage pour les Chapitres est la récente mise sur pied du programme des responsabilités. Plusieurs Chapitres ont en effet des problèmes à s'assurer lors d'une exposition ou d'une activité quelconque. Désormals, le probléme est résolu grace à ce programme qui leur permet de s'assurer pour aussi peu que $65 par année.

Communiquez avec notre bureau pour plus d'informations concernant ce dit programme. De bonnes choses sont arrivées à la Royale! Nous revenons juste de la merveilleuse convention d'Hamiton. Un gros merci encore une fois à ses organisateurs et aux gens qui en ont fait un seccés. De plus le "Philatéliste" est arrivé en temps! Merci à otre éditeur, le doctueur J-J MacDonald et à notre nouvel éditeur, Trajan Publishing.

Vos directeurs sont aussi occupés, travaillant à faire de la Royale une société toujours plus int´ressante, et à essayez de faire l'inventaire des récentes, intéressantes et colorées émissions de timbres canadiens qui sortent presque quotidiennement cet été.

Collectionnez dans la joie et passez un merveilleux été!❐

Editorial ...continued from page 230

Finally, try to involve wives in the convention itself. I have attended some lectures at philatelic gatherings where I have been impressed with the level of expertize of the speakers but have not learned very much because the speakers have been advanced and technical in their presentations. Yet many exhibits are of more general interest.

Perhaps there might be some more general lectures, possibly of greater interest to wives and/or beginners, as in members of junior stamp clubs. For example, in viewing a show, my interest is often on topical displays, which represent a high degree of expertize but are easier for the lay person to understand. Presentations around such displays might attract an audience who would otherwise not attend lectures. If only conference planners would remember the varying levels of expertize at a well attended convention.

Many wives, like myself, have probably attended the ceremonial banquet and other formal events. At dinners, for example, the noise level and crowds often make it hard for conversation. For those of us who don't know what is going on, a program listing speakers, awards and prizes including the criteria for each would be helpful. Write-ups on the various awards represented would cut down the length of the formal presentation and clearly show the order of the evening. A program would also focus the presentations and assist in keeping the event on track.

In summary, I would like to remind organizers that wives are a regular feature at philatelcic conventions and that some thought should be given to making the gathering a pleasant one for them.❐

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

The nearly missionary zeal of societies, new and old, to secure new members is reaching nauseating proportions.

One of the battlegrounds for these souls is the exhibition scene; the weapons are medals given "free" for distribution to deserving exhibitors. However, the adage that there is no free lunch is driven home quite strongly.

It was my privilege to serve as Jury Chairman at ROYAL '98 ROYALE in Hamilton from May 29-31, 1998.

This annual exhibition, sponsored by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, attracted 20 senior and 13 junior exhibits. The statutory five levels of national medals, a Grand Award, Reserve Grand Award and Best Youth Award were "joined" by two certificates, two (4" x 10") ribbons, three pins and seven medals "donated" by various societies. The 14 "non-statutory" prizes were to be awarded according to specific instructions which often competed with each other. The resulting orgy of awards is an overkill cheapening the system designed to honour deserving collections. Most of these "awards" are self-serving and threaten the autonomy of the jury.

The awards ceremony is also burdened with an additional number of presenters (four in Hamilton), which does nothing for the dignity of the event.

Some sanity and order should be installed here with the alternatives being the refusal by exhibition committees to accept these prizes or the juries refusing to award them. I apologize for not having the intestinal fortitude to follow this last advise and asking my fellow judges to refrain from nominating exhibits for anything but the conventional awards.

We can always form yet a new organization to administer the award system among donors!

Best wishes,
Michael Madesker
Downsview, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Your editorial in the January-February, 1998 issue (Vol. 49 No. 1) of *The Canadian Philatelist* invited comments regarding the proliferation of the production of stamps by Canada Post.

As a direct comment, it does seem we are issuing too many stamps each year, especially certain types which are considered undesirable by way of content and/or design. A glaring example of this is the 1997 Supernatural.

The above paragraph brings up the whole question of policies. What is the very first requisite to issue a stamp for the year of say, 1999? What is the second requisite, the third, etc?

It would seem that these must include very specific criteria, such as it be: Canadian; of good and pleasing quality; historical significance; attractive for world-wide tourist interest or; commemorative of people, places, events, equipment, facilities, etc.

It appears we have lost the "clas-

sic" recognition of the earlier Canadian stamps issued prior to 1951. An excellent selection and design standard would eliminate the probability of undesirable stamps, and could include the number of different stamps considered suitable for that year.

A selection and design standard would make a very interesting article written by someone knowledgeable on the subject. Another article of interest to me would be the reason for and history of the microscopic year date of issue that appears now to be on all the mint stamps. It is very convenient for collectors and most of the time presents a challenge to find with a very strong glass because they are cleverly located to blend into the background and do not affect the stamp design.

Hope this may be of some interest to you.

Sincerely,
S. M. Clark,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

In regards to the article by Michael Miller on the Royal Mint Mail service on page 389 of the November/December '97 issue. It is important to remember that population and geography are both involved. In Great Britain, over 50 million people, more than twice the number in Canada, are living in a country a bit more than a third the size of Manitoba (94,000 square miles versus 250,000 approximately). It therefore makes sense to use dedicated trains owned by the Post Office at least on the major routes.

I regularly receive four Canadian magazines marked POST PAID in locations such as Lewiston and Buffalo, NY and Pembina, ND, for example. I have also received items via TNT Southall (London, England), or things such as bank statements mailed in Amsterdam or Copenhagen.

Obviously, these organizations find it cheaper to export their mail in bulk and have it put in the mail system in other countries. This seemed to me to start with the application of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), although that may not be the only reason.

In the same issue in *The Short Story* column by Raconteur on page 408, the Chapel of St. Peter is mentioned. The full name is St. Peter ad Vincula (St. Peter in Chains). When in London, a visit to the tower is well worth the trouble. It brings to life all those people in the history books who spent time there.

Yours truly,
J.V. Abram
Cheltenham, Glos., U.K.

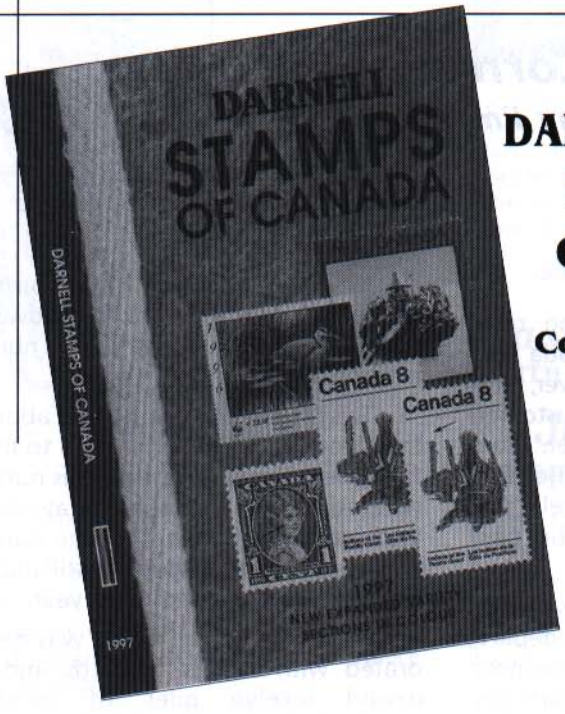
Dear Sir:

The article about Canada's Imperial Penny Post by Fred Fawn (Vol. 49 No. 2) was read with great interest. I agree with his comments about the DEC 3 cancel.

About the DEC 2 "possible earliest date", while it could have been possible, there is some doubt that it probably happened. It is a question that each reader will have to decide for themselves.

There are several other facts that need to be examined.

Continued on page 273



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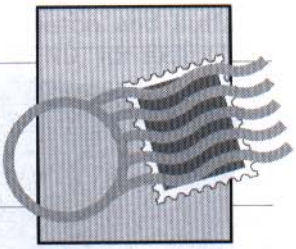

Post Office in Danger of Collapse

With privatization closing rural post offices, and strikes, Canada Post has always survived. However, this week they lost their best customer, Florence Measures, my mother. Mom spent the last 16 weeks in hospital and on Saturday while I held her hand, she quietly escaped the pain and went to meet her God.

At times like this, families always renew all the memories of the departed loved one. My favourite memory of Mom will always be her birthday card list. If you ever got onto her list, you would always get a card for your birthday. It was almost impossible to get off of her birthday list. To illustrate this, let me tell you about a nurse I never met.

When Mom and Dad lived in Toronto, Mom used to take a bus to the subway. Along the route there was a nursing home and a nurse who worked there often rode the same bus. One day the nurse got on the bus and Mom noticed that she looked rather sad. Mom spoke to her. (Mom was always a small town girl, even when she lived in the city) and said, "What's the trouble Dearie, you look sad today?".

The nurse told her that it was her birthday and she had worked all day and nobody knew or cared and now she was going home to an empty house. She lived alone.

Mom wished her a happy birthday and then stopped at the subway station to mail her a card c/o the nursing home.

Twelve years later I learned about this. Mom and Dad had moved to the farm, near Orangeville, but this nurse was still on Mom's birthday list. Without knowing whether the nurse was alive or dead, Mom was still mailing her a birthday card each year.

At Christmas, the house was decorated with strings of cards and I would receive piles of empty envelopes for me to take the stamps for my collection. Her Christmas card list was awesome, but her birthday card list was even longer.

Mom lived on a rural route, but visited the post office frequently to purchase stamps; not two or three, but by the handfull. Often she would get a new issue and buy some extra to give to "David" for his collection.

She also saved the used stamps off of her mail and whenever I visited, there was an envelope full of used stamps waiting for me.

In July, Mom was unable to get to the mail box, but she made sure that Dad got a card for my birthday.

Next year, if the post office has survived, I expect I will receive my birthday card postmarked "Heaven LoVe 13".❐

CANADA HOUSE

A special Canada Post souvenir envelope marks the re-opening of Canada House, the traditional home of the Canadian High Commission in London. Britain celebrated Canada Month in May and Canada House was the centrepiece of the festivities.

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Why I collect what I do

by William Gard

As long as the stories that stamps tell me are exciting, I will continue to collect them.

But why do I collect what I do?

It is the stamps themselves that determine my collection only limited by my disposable income.

But my collection has taken shape by other influences over the years related to who I am. I started collecting over 40 years ago, in the mid-1950s, with varying degrees of dedication.

I remember those early ventures into stamp collecting fondly. A boyhood friend got me started and I went out and collected the world.

Fig. 1

I still have the first stamp I collected, a used copy of Canada, Scott #359, publicizing ice hockey.

My allowance was 25 cents a week and the choice was either the Saturday matinee, 15 cents, plus 10 cents for popcorn; or a packet of 200 world-wide stamps at the local barbershop for a quarter.

Not only was the choice between matinee and stamps tough, but having chosen stamps, deciding which envelope would hold the most interesting stamps. I peered through the glassine window trying to see behind the envelopes displayed and wishing I had Superman's x-ray vision.

Canadian stamps were available through family and friends and new issues were not common and only cost a nickel.

Each issue was a time for excitement and celebration! How times have changed over the years. My father, who was a letter carrier, helped me out and would ask customers for their envelopes from Europe. Immigration was on the rise in those days and mail from home countries was common.

Mother was Irish, a war bride, and I collected Ireland because I had family sources there and was proud of my Celtic heritage (Fig. 1).

Fig. 2

Those barbershop packets opened the world up to a small boy and I was attracted by the fauna, geography and history of exotic places - Australia with kangaroos and koalas and kookaburras (Fig. 2) on its definitives or; South Africa with those fascinating dual English/Afrikaans definitive issues were favourites in those years.

Today I still collect Canada, Australia and Ireland as the influence of those stamps has been lasting.

Because I have grown up with

Queen Elizabeth II, my Canadian interest has been on the issues since 1953, the stamps, booklets and postal stationery, which reflect my lifetime. In recent years I have lost interest in all but a few commemorative issues because of issuing policies and stopped adding to that part of my collection.

Fig. 3

The Centennial definitive series sparked an enduring fascination with definitives, because of their shades, perforations and tagging. Definitives were inexpensive and common and Canada's have provided an ever widening field since 1967. The Robin Harris Definitive Catalogues expanded my interest into their postal history as the rates and usages represented by those many values.

I gave up the world in the late 1960s as it was too wide and expensive but kept up with South America, because of my new found fascination with definitives created by those Canadian Centennials.

It is a world of perforations and watermarks from places like Mexico, Brazil and Argentina (Fig. 3) leading the way in their multitude of low-cost and easy to obtain varieties.

What else has influenced what I collect?

A pen pal was the origin for my collection of Czechoslovakia.

And the Guelph Stamp Club generated my interest in postal markings through interaction with the members and viewing exhibits at the annual philatelic exhibition.

It was my home town of Woodstock, in southwestern Ontario, whose postal history I would collect.

I looked negatively on topical collecting for years, though the topics shown on stamps influenced the countries I collected. Interests in Paleontology and Mayan and Andean Archaeology (or were the latter interests created by the stamps I collected?), finally produced an interest in collecting dinosaurs and Meso-American archaeology on stamps.

I choose what is included and excluded and completeness of the collection is not the object.

My collection has value to me and is influenced by the stamp material itself and who I am, limited by the cash available to spend.

I enjoy the people, the societies, the variety and the intellectual stimulation which stamps convey. And most importantly, the story has to be exciting.❐

Promoting Communication
Promouvoir la Communication

by / par Juliana Nel

Promoting Communication Between the People of the World

When postal administrations combined forces to create the UPU, they started the world's largest physical distribution network. The treaty signed by 22 countries in Berne, Switzerland on Oct. 9, 1874 – a day now celebrated worldwide as World Post Day – succeeded in unifying a confusing international maze of postal services and regulations into a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter post items, allowing for the free flow and growth of international mail.

The UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations on July 1, 1948. Its financing is independent of the larger United Nations system and expenses are financed jointly by the member countries, based on a contribution class system.

Widespread communicaton network

The UPU's mission provides for the promotion and development of communication between all the people of the world and plays an important leadership role in promoting the continued revitalization of postal services.

With 189 member countries, it is the primary vehicle for co-operation between postal services and for providing a truly universal network of

Promouvoir la communication entre les peuples

Lorsque des Administrations postales mettant leurs forces en commun ont creé l'Union postale universelle (UPU), elles ont constitué le plus grand réseau de distribution physique du monde. Le traité signé par 22 pays à Berne, Suisse, le 9 octobre 1874, date à laquelle la Journée mondiale de la poste est célébrée désormais, à reussi à unifier un écheveau embrouillé de services postaux et de règlements et à définir un territoire postal unique pour l'échange réciproque d'envois de la poste aux lettres, permettant ainsi la libre circulation et la croissance du courrier international.

L'UPU est devenue une institution spécialisée de l'Organisation des Nations Unies le 1er juillet 1948. Son financement est indépendant du système des Nations Unies et ses dépenses sont financées en commun par ses Pays-membres, sur la base d'une répartition des contributions.

Le réseau le plus dense et étendu du monde

L'UPU a pour mission d'oeuvrer pour la promotion et le développement de la communication entre tous les peuples et joue un rôle moteur primordial en faveur d'une dynamisation continue des services postaux. Avec ses 189 Pays-membres, elle est le principal canal de la coopération entre les postes du monde entier et un moyen

up-to-date products and services. In this way, the organization fulfills an advisory, mediating and liaison role, rendering assistance wherever necessary.

It is non-political and does not interfere in matters that fall within the domain of national postal services, but rather makes recommendations to promote the free flow of international mail, stimulate and develop growth in mail volumes and improve the quality of service for customers.

The postal network remains the largest and densest in the world. More than six million postal employees collect, sort and deliver a total of 440 billion items to addresses across the world. Postal customers can conduct their business in more than 700,000 post offices.

A variety of forces have, however, caused postal services to rethink their role in the communications market. The effects of direct and indirect competition, privatization, globalization, the separation of the operator and regulator functions, customer demands for better and more reliable products and the advent of new communications technologies have convinced many postal services to rethink the way they do business.

They have had to modify their operational and financial strategies in order to remain competitive. This is being supported by the UPU's blueprint for change known as Seoul Postal Strategy, adopted by the Universal Postal Congress, the

de garantir le maintien d'un réseau véritablement universel de produits et de services adaptés aux besoins modernes. Ainsi, l'Organisation remplit un rôle de conseil, de médiation et de liaison, prêtant assistance partout où cela est nécessaire. Elle est neutre politiquement et n'interfère pas dans les affaires qui relèvent de la compétence des Administrations postales nationales. En revanche, elle émet des recommandations destinées à favoriser la libre circulation des envois postaux internationaux, à stimuler et à developper la croissance des volumes de courrier et à amellorer la qualité du service offert à la clientèle.

Le réseau postal demeure le réseau le plus dense et le plus étendu du monde. Plus de six millions de postiers ramassent, trient et distribuent chaque année un total de 440 milliards d'envois à tous les coins du monde. Les usagers de la poste peuvent conduire leurs affaires par l'intermédiaire de plus de 700 000 bureaux de poste.

Toutefois, plusieurs courants ont amené les services postaux à repenser leur role sur le marché des communications. Les effets de la concurrence directe et indirecte, la privatisation, la mondialisation, la séparation des fonctions des opérateurs de celles des régulateurs, la demande exprimée par la clientèle d'avoir des produits de meilleure qualité et plus fiables, ainsi que l'apparition des nouvelles techniques de communication, ont convaincu beaucoup de postes de la necessité de modifier leurs stratégies opérationnelles et financières si elles voulaient rester compétitives. Cette évolution est étayée par le modèle établi par l'UPU pour la réalisation du

supreme authority of the Union, in Korea in 1994.

Postal services throughout the world are applying the SPS by providing higher quality postal services at reasonable rates and a wider range of products and services that meet their customers' growing expectations.

At the same time, postal services continue to fulfill the public service obligations mandated by their governments. Their role in the development of communications is therefore vital, not only as a means of exchanging information, but also as a way of maintaining and promoting social cohesion.

Despite a decline in the postal services' share in the total communications market, an increase is predicted in mail volumes between now and the year 2005. The postal services of today are not only expected to keep track with developments in the technological field, but also with rapid economic and social changes. Postal customers are demanding much more from their national postal service today than in the past.

Challenges with technology

Technological developments should, however, not be seen as a threat to core postal services but rather as a challenge, since they create new opportunities for the postal sector to increase its share in the communications market.

The effective utilization of technology should result in an overall improvement in the quality of postal services and consequently increase

changement, connu sous le nom de la Stratégie postale de Seoul (SPS), et adopté par le Congrès postal universel, l'autorité suprême de l'Union, en République de Corée, en 1994. Les Administrations postales à travers le monde appliquent la SPS en assurant des prestations postales de meilleure qualité, à des prix raisonnables, et en fournissant une gamme plus large de produits et de services qui répondent l'attente plus exigeante des clients. En même temps, les services postaux continuent de s'acquitter de l'obligation de fournir un service universel que leur a assignée leur gouvemement. Leur rôle dans le développement des communications est donc vital, non seulement parce qu'ils constituent un moyen d'échanger des informations mais aussi parce qu'ils servent à cimenter et à promouvoir la cohésion sociale.

Malgré le déclin de la part du marché global des communications que détiennent les services postaux, une augmentation des volumes de courrier est prevue d'ici a l'année 2005. Les Administrations postales se doivent aujourd'hui non seulement de se tenir au courant des derniers developpements dans le domaine de la technologie mais elles doivent suivre aussi les rapides changements économiques et sociaux. Les clients de la poste exigent aujourd'hui beaucoup plus de leur service postal national que par le passé.

Technologie – un défi à relever

Cependant il ne faudrait pas considérer les progrès techniques comme une menace pour les services postaux de base mais plutôt comme un défi à relever, car ils sont porteurs de nouvelles possibilités pour le secteur postal d'accroître sa part du marché des com-

global mail volumes.

Furthermore, in most countries the whole population has access to postal service while this is not yet the case for telephone, fax and electronic mail. Many modern means of communication such as the fax or electronic mail actually generate physical mail which supports the prediction of an overall increase in postal volumes.

The postal industry is also exploring new areas not traditionally regarded as its core business of delivering mail, offering customers more value-added services.

Commercial electronic products and services hold great potential and many postal services have already positioned themselves well in their respective markets as well as internationally, enabling them to respond effectively to the changing needs of their customers.

The UPU is a modern institution with a proud history and tradition. It has an enviable record of accomplishment. Postal customers around the world can look forward to increasingly responsive and reliable postal services which will continue to be the most accessible and affordable means of communication and message delivery available.

(Juliana Nel is a Communications Specialist with the International Bureau, Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland, e-mail: juliana.nel@ib.upu.org, tel: (+41 31 350 3240.)❐

munications. Une utilisation intelligente de la technologie devrait entraîner une amélioration générale de la qualité des services postaux et, par conséquent, une augmentation du trafic postal mondial. En outre, dans la plupart des pays, la population tout entière a accès au service postal, ce qui n'est pas le cas pour le téléphone, la télécopie et le courrier électronique. Beaucoup de moyens modernes de communication, comme la télécopie ou le courrier électronique, engendrent en fait du courrier physique, ce qui étaye la thèse d'une future augmentation globale des volumes postaux.

Le secteur postal explore également de nouveaux domaines qui ne sont pas habituellement considérés comme faisant partie des ses activités principales de distribution, en offrant à ses clients des services à valeur ajoutée. Les produits et les services électroniques commerciaux représentent un grand potentiel et beaucoup d'Administrations postales se sont déjà bien placées sur ces segments de leurs marchés respectifs ainsi qu'au niveau international, ce qui leur permet de réagir positivement à l'évolution des besoins de leurs clients.

L'UPU est une institution moderne, fière de son histoire et des ses traditions. Elle peut décliner une longue liste d'accomplissements dignes d'éloge. Tous les usagers de la poste à travers le monde peuvent espérer bénéficier de services postaux qui seront de plus en plus fiables et adaptés à leur demande, et la poste continuera d'être le moyen de communication et de transmission de messages le plus accessible et le plus abordable sur le marché.❐

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On Philatelic Literature Libraries and Research

Part Four

by Michael O. Nowlan

Sooner or later, serious stamp collectors need the resources of a philatelic library or postal archives/museum.

It can be important, therefore, to know what is available.

Canada's premiere locale for philatelic research is the Canadian Postal Archives (CPA) which was created on April 1, 1988 by the National Archives of Canada. Up to that time, Canada's postal heritage was preserved at the National Postal Museum which was an arm of Canada Post Corporation.

The CPA has a number of rarities among its collections, but the finest features of the CPA, however, are the many essays, proofs, press proof sheets and other items that mark the various stages of stamp production. The Library contains approximately 20,000 publications on all aspects of Canadian and international philately. Included are about 1,000 Canadian handbooks and catalogues published since the beginning of Canadian philately.

The CPA is also custodian of postage stamps from all over the world. Acquired through the Canada Post exchange program with member countries of the Universal Postal Union, the collection dates back to 1878 when Canada joined the UPU. If your visit will entail major research, it is best to phone ahead (613-996-1199), so materials can be prepared.

Moving south, the new National Postal Museum (NPM) for the United States opened on July 30, 1993 in Washington, D.C. as the newest of the Smithsonian Institution museums.

A chief feature is the NPM library which contains monographs, serials, rare books, and various archives/files. When the NPM opened, Timothy Carr, librarian, said "our goal is to have all our materials accessible to the public," and he expected the process to take about two years. Even then, "many of the items in our collection are fragile," he said, which meant using them would not be easy.

The NPM archives/files include select material from the Canal Zone Postal Administration, Highway Post Office, Railway Mail service, United State Postal Service, National One-Cent Postage Association, and the Captain B.B. Lipsner papers. There is also a philatelic photography collection.

Those who wish to conduct research in the library should telephone for an appointment (202-633-9370).

Nestled in a corner of the beautiful campus of Regis College on tree-shaded Wellesley Street in Weston, Massachusetts is the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, a treasure house of stamps, postal history, literature, and memorabilia.

Handbooks, trade catalogues, periodicals, auction catalogues, and pamphlets form the bulk of the collection, but there are many reference titles, exhibition catalogues, rare books, and vertical files to enhance the collectors' demands for information. There is a good mix of philatelic "classics" as well as contemporary publications.

The museum, which was dedicated on May 4, 1963, has had extensive renovations since my visit in 1993. Today, the CSPM has over 40,000 volumes and a global collection of over four million stamps and postal history items.

Actually, the Cardinal Spellman collection is now only a small part of the CSPM's holdings. There are also collections of former president Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Matthew Ridgway, violinist Jascha Heifetz and many other philatelists.

Hours at the CSPM vary with the sea-

sons, so a call ahead is advisable - 781-894-6735.

In Part Two of this series I cited Philatelic Literature Review, the journal of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in State College, Pennsylvania. The APRL is the gem of the American Philatelic Society building. Founded in 1968, it is one of the finest libraries of its kind with over 15,000 books and monographs, 3,250 periodical titles, and countless auction catalogues, dealer price lists and special files in more that two miles of shelving/cabinets.

Membership in APS or APRL is required for borrowing materials, but non-members may use the facility. Those who live a distance from State College may now consult the card catalogue via the world wide web.

The many resources at the APRL include the Harris Index compiled in Great Britain between 1928 and 1933 which lists British Commonwealth publications. There is also the Piper File which indexed more than 25 periodicals over a 25 year period. The Ricketts Index, which was published in Philatelic Literature Review, the Ricketts Index for Locals, and the Ricketts Index to Bibliographic Literature are significant listings for any philatelic research.

Other resources at APRL are the Stamp Lover Index, the Ellis File, the Belmont Faries Files, the Ernest A. Kehr Clipping Files commenced in the early 1930s, and the American First Day Cover Society Archives. APRL is open daily Monday to Friday. For an appointment for specialized research, call Gini Horn at 814-237-3803. Another philatelic library in the United States is the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver, Colorado which moved to a much expanded location in August 1996.

The new building has 50 percent more space which allows rooms to display all of the books, journals, auction catalogues, and publications. The RMPL is a depository for Colorado postmarks, Colorado postal history, and Western history.

It is of interest to note that most of these sites for philatelic research have undergone extensive renovations or moved to larger locations. It is evidence that collectors are not only using the facilities, but demanding more and more resources. As this is being written, American Philatelic Society president John Hotchener is calling on members to provide input for enlarging the present APS building or finding a much larger building. One of the aims is to make "APS headquarters into a philatelic centre for the study and promotion of stamp collecting."

Other research facilities for stamp collectors in the United States include Collectors Club Library, 22 East 35th Street, New York 10016-3806 (212-481-0559); Postal History Foundation Library, P.O. Box 40724, Tucson, AZ 85717-0725 (520-623-6652); and Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 830643, Richardson, TX 75083-2570 (214-883-2570).

In Canada, there is the Vincent Graves Philatelic Research Library which is managed by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For information, contact Harry Sutherland, Box 100, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON M5X 1B2.

A useful listing of worldwide philatelic libraries appeared in *Topical Time* January-February 1998 issue.

Lastly, a research facility that collectors should not overlook is their local public or university library.

To my surprise, I discovered the University of New Brunswick's Harriet Irving Library in Fredericton has a good selection of earlier philatelic material in its archives.

Largely from one bequest, UNB's holdings include a complete volume of George Stewart's Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette (June 1865-May 1867) and copies of several other 19th century stamp publications.

Philatelic research is a key to understanding the full impact of this hobby, and those who work in this field doing a great service for philately.❐

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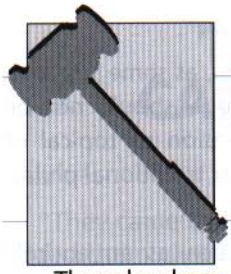

Under the Hammer

....with Dean Mario

There has been much interest lately about how philately, and more specifically stamp shows and philatelic exhibitions, should be enhanced for the year 2000 and beyond.

Organizers of local, national, and international exhibitions have been increasingly concerned with low levels of interest and attendance among collectors, exhibitors, and the general public.

We seem to have arrived at a watershed in philately and I believe that the time is right to introduce and embrace a relatively new concept in exhibit presentation. The idea of "display" exhibiting is rapidly becoming the best hope to "save" philately and philatelic exhibitions for the future.

Also known as "social" or "historical" philately, display philately and exhibiting have become increasingly popular with collectors, novice and experienced exhibitors, and the non-collecting public.

Although relatively new in Canada, it has been adopted in Western Europe, Australia, and to a certain extent in the United States. Several show organizers have praised the display or "open" class for exhibits and most have been quite pleased with the results. The class has encouraged collectors at all levels to exhibit and many believe that it has made philately interesting again.

I believe that it is time for Canadian show organizers, including The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, to seriously examine this new approach with the thought of introducing the display class within future RPSC exhibitions. Some may argue that it is only a fad that will pass given time, but many now believe that it is perhaps the best thing to happen to philately and philatelic exhibiting in a long time.

What exactly is display exhibiting? The concept began as an out-growth of topical or thematic collecting and exhibiting. Collectors often felt too constrained with classic exhibit categories and criteria and demanded a change which was more inclusive of non-traditional material. The display class recognizes this innovative approach and allows creative exhibitors an opportunity to fully develop their theme by utilizing philatelic and non-philatelic material.

Most North American philatelic exhibitions now endorse the American Philatelic Society's suggestion that a maximum of one-third of material within a display class exhibit be non-philatelic. The material should be relevant for the development and enhancement of the exhibit. Allowing non-philatelic (but related), material in this display class format gives exhibitors greater latitude in the telling of their story.

It also helps improve understanding among viewers (either collectors or non-collectors), and in most cases makes the exhibit more interesting.

Opinions vary on which non-philatelic items should be included within a display class exhibit. Such items could include: picture postcards (the picture side); addresses; postal messages; cover cachets; illustrated covers; cinderellas; greeting cards; maps; and postal forms and documents.

An argument could be made that items such as autographs, photos, newspaper clippings, letters or, original documents might also be represented.

Although these examples all appear to be of paper material and ephemeral, non-paper items could be included where practical and within the physical constraints of the exhibition.

Options open to exhibitors in this class are endless, with the proviso that the items used are legitimately relevant and can be included within the confines and format of a "traditional" exhibition (ie. standard or non-standard display frames). The latter might also be flexible depending upon the receptiveness of the exhibition committee.

Guidelines for judging display classes have been noted elsewhere, but it is important to remember that this criteria should be "exhibitor-friendly" as well as meaningful.

Although more experienced exhibitors will find that the display class offers new and exciting challenges, let us not forget that it provides novice exhibitors an opportunity to "get their feet wet".

The display class, as some supporters have pointed out, should not be viewed as an extension of topical or thematic philately or traditional philately's "poor cousin".

It should be seen as an entirely independent area for exhibiting in future shows, and a new and innovative opportunity for collectors and non-collectors to appreciate philately in a different, and more interesting, manner.

It is obvious that the traditional methods of exhibiting need a boost to help invigorate philately and philatelic shows. The adoption of the display class in more local, national, and international exhibitions will certainly be a vital asset for philately in the next century.❐

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MACHAL AND THE CANADIAN NORSEMAN

By John Peebles

"They came to us when we most needed them, during those hard and uncertain days of our 1948 War of Independence." Those were the words of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when speaking at the dedication ceremony of the Machal Monument at Shaar Hagai, Israel. The monument was financed by the affiliates of World Machal around the world.

Machal is a Hebrew acronym for "Overseas Volunteers." Fifty years ago, during Israel's War of Independence, some 3,000 to 4,000 volunteers from all over the world rallied to the Jewish State's defense. Young men and women, Jews and non-Jews, came from 37 different countries to support the new Jewish State.

Included in those totals were about 1,500 from the United States, 700 from South Africa, 600 from Great Britain, and another 400 from Canada. The rest mainly came from France and Belgium, plus much smaller contingents from 30 other nations.

Most of the Western volunteers had fought in the Second World War and were able to put their combat training and experience into action. These volunteers formed the nucleus of the new Air Force. Canadian and American pilots, air and ground crews, created the Air Transport Command. Because of the presence

Fig. 1 The Norseman aircraft depicted on this Israeli stamp was built in Canada.

of the North Americans, out of necessity, the operational language of the Israeli Air Force throughout the war was actually English.

Israel's first naval commanders, first radar technicians, first heavy artillery gunners, first tank commanders, first senior infantry commanders, and first fighter and bomber pilots were all Machal volunteers.

During the War of Independence, 118 Machal volunteers were killed in action.

After serving Israel in her War, most of the Machal volunteers returned to their home countries. However, about 500 stayed in Israel or returned soon after to make Israel their new home.

This year, in 1998, Israel is celebrating the 50th year of the state.

On December 23, 1997, Israel issued two stamps, one to honour Gachal, a Hebrew acronym for the tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors who were recruited in Europe to aid in the War of Independence, and the other to honour Machal. (Fig. 1)

The design of the 1.15 shekel commemorative symbolizes the specialized activities of the volunteers who took part in the fighting on land, at sea and in the air. Partial views of two Norseman airplanes can be seen at the sides of the stamp, with a soldier and a jeep between them. The lower portion of the stamp depicts the cannon known as "Napoleon-chick" and the navy ship *Achi Hagana K20*, previously known as the illegal immigrant ship *The Jewish State*.

The Israeli Machal stamp was designed by R. Kantor. Copies were printed in Israel using the offset process by E. Lewin-Epstein Limited in panes of 15 stamps, the bottom five of which have tabs. The tab reproduces the quote by ex-Israeli Prime Minister Rabin noted at the beginning of this story: "They came to us when we most needed them..." It is of interest to note that a preliminary design of the Machal stamp indicated that national flags, including that of Canada, would be featured on the tabs. However, somewhere along in the design process the flag idea was dropped.

Aside from the fact that a large portion of the Machal volunteers were Canadian, the Norseman aircraft adds another Canadian element to the stamp design.

Back in 1934, RBC (Bob) Noorduyn, a native of Holland, moved to Montreal. He began designing a new aircraft that would be suitable for rigorous Canadian conditions and needs, especially those of Canada's North. Noorduyn Aviation Limited was formed and the Norseman airplane was the resulting product.

The new aircraft's rugged features appealed to users and by the start of World War II, 23 of the aircraft had been produced at Noorduyn's Montreal plant. Then, with the outbreak of war in 1939, the Royal Canadian Air Force as well as the United States Air Force placed orders for the Norseman. After the War some of the aircraft were donated or acquired by various countries, including Israel.

Two accidents with the Norseman are worthy of mention here as they pertain to our story of the 1948 War of Independence. On May 20, 1948, George F. Beurling, a top-scoring Canadian fighter pilot, was ferrying a Norseman to Israel. Upon taking off from Rome the aircraft stalled and Beurling was killed in the ensuing crash. Just 10 days earlier, on May 10, 1948, a Norseman left its base in Israel in order to assist the Har'el Brigade in an attack at Bet Hahsir as part of operation "Maccabi". The airplane, with its crew of six, crashed. Later, after the Israelis captured the area where the plane had fallen, the engine and

bent propeller of the Norsemen were salvaged. The engine and propeller have since been mounted on the top of the "Fallen Airmen's Memorial." At its site, once a year members of the Israeli Air Force and their families gather at the memorial at Airmen's Hill for a memorial service. The memorial, surmounted by the engine and propeller of the Canadian designed and built Norseman, was depicted on an Israeli stamp, Scott # 1013, issued on April 30, 1989. (Fig. 2)

Fig. 2

Dr. Jason Fenton, who was a Machal volunteer, maintains a website on the Internet which features the Machal story. When contacted by us, Dr. Fenton wrote: "The Canadian Norseman played a very honourable and heroic role in Israel's War of Independence. A couple of World War II war surplus Noorduyn Norsemen interiors were stripped at an airfield at Brindisi and huge 200 gallon hard rubber fuel tanks were jammed into each fuselage and filled with 1,200 pounds of gasoline to enable them to cross the Mediterranean and reach Palestine 1,400 miles to the east without putting down."

"One problem was getting these flying bombs airborne and the second was that any hard landing would wipe out a couple of city blocks!"

"The American Machal pilots took off over the ocean and miraculously got airborne, but they had no real flight plan, no radio or survival gear, and the real possibility of running out of fuel. But the Norseman was an incredible plane that could take off and land on snow, water, or from some tiny forest clearing while carrying the heaviest cargo. All this, great piloting by American pilots, and a lot of luck and they made it non-stop to an airfield near Tel Aviv."

"Twenty surplus Norsemen still with U.S. registrations were discovered by the Haganah in Paris and were smuggled in twos and threes first to Holland, where friendly KLM crews fitted them with long distance tanks, and then to Italy for their long trip to Palestine."

"Norsemen took part in bombing runs against Egyptian fortifications in the Negev and in supplying food and supplies to besieged settlements."

To mark the participation of Israel at the recent Royal *1998* Royale show held in Hamilton from May 29-31, 1998, the Canadiana Study Unit produced an illustrated cover with flags cachet. The cover bears the Machal stamp along with the special Israeli show cancel.

Collectors interested in obtaining more information about Canadiana should write to: Canadiana Study Unit, Box 3262, Station A, London, Ont., N6A 4K3.❐

Don's Corner

by Donald J. LeBlanc

The 60th Anniversary of Confederation was celebrated in fine fashion with the issuance of a series of six fine engraved stamps, Scott number 141 to 145 and E3 (Darnell #138 to 143). All were issued on June 29, 1927 with another series, the Historical Issue which had been printed in 1926 but withheld from the public until June, 1927. The Historical Issue (#146-148) will be discussed in a future article.

A very rare 141a imperforated plate block. This position is 5UL since the number 3 and H are on the same level. In the UR position the H is lower than the 3 in 943.

Autre que la qualité de la gravure, cette série est spéciale pour son aspect bilingue. Pour la première fois les mots "Post" et "Postes" sont imprimés sur des timbres canadiens et vont se répéter sur toutes les autres séries par la suite. La série historique ne contient pas ces deux termes, mais elle avait été imprimée en 1926, avant que la nouvelle politique ne soit en vigueur.

The 1¢, in orange, is a portrait of Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada. It was printed, (along with the 5¢) in sheets of 400 stamps and divided into issued panes of 100 stamps each. The upper left pane and the upper right pane contained the plate numbers which were numbered 1 to 6 inclusively. There are therefore 12 different plate blocks for the plate block collector.

The 2¢ green stamp, depicts the "Fathers of Confederation" and was taken from the original painting by Robert Harris. The design had previously been used for the 50th Anniversary of Confederation in 1917 (Scott #135, Darnell #133) but the newer version reinserted eight "Fathers" that had been omitted in the 1917 version! If one looks closely, one "Father" has been reinstated on the left side and seven on the right. It is an interesting fact that the original painting used for both stamps was lost in a fire that swept the Parliament Buildings in 1916.

It was printed, as were the 3¢, 12¢ and the Special Delivery stamp, in sheets of 200 divided into panes of 50, as issued. The upper left pane and the

Also a very rare partially imperforated plate block of #142. (142ii-Imperforated horiz.) Position 13 UR since 9 lines up with AT of the word Confederation in the stamp immediately below.

upper right pane contained the plate numbers. There being 15 different plates used, there are 30 possible plate blocks in the original series, excluding some plate blocks for the imperforated stamps, and part imperforated stamps.

The 3¢ carmine, depicts the Center Block of Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. As with the 2¢, the upper left pane of 50 and the upper right pane contained the plate numbers and three different plates were used thereby providing six different plate blocks for the collector.

Le très Honorable Wilfred Laurier est représenté sur le timbre de 5¢. Il fut le premier ministre du Canada de 1896 à 1911. Ils furent imprimés sur 3 différentes planches et les 6 inscriptions sont toutes incrites dans les positions supérieures gauche ou supérieures droite.

The 12¢ map of Canada, represents the original four provinces of 1867, in dark blue and the then present nine Canadian provinces and two territories in a lighter shade of blue. The upper left and upper right panes contained the plate numbers but only two plates were used for a total possible plate collection of four blocks, excluding the imperforated plate blocks, and part imperforated blocks.

Lastly, we have E3 (Darnell #143) to complete the issue. Contrary to Unitrade, the Darnell catalogue has this beautiful engraved stamp grouped with the others, as it should be. It is also bilingual and depicts the various modes of mail conveyance including, horse, railroad and dog-sleigh, among others. It is probably Canada's most beautiful stamp after the Bluenose and has been used as a theme stamp numerous times, including Capex, in 1996. I prefer Darnell's approach since it makes a lot of sense to study this stamp with the others in the series. Whether one studies the engraving, the printers, the plate numbers or the historical significance, one should study the series as a group.

Like the other three large format stamps, the sheet consisted of 200 stamps of four panes of 50 each. The imprints, therefore, should be on the upper left panes and the upper right pane to be consistent with the others. However, the inscriptions are actually on the left side margins. To understand this discrepency, an explanation by L. Seale Holmes is in order:

"It must be remembered that these stamps, while the same size as the other large stamps of this Confederation set, had the oblong upright and they were printed as it were, on their side, with the top of the stamp towards the right-hand

side of the sheet. This would leave the imprint for the upper panes extending along the margin at the left-hand side of the stamps if we consider the imprint as being at the top (strictly speaking) of the pane and on the lower panes extending along the lower margin at the right-hand side of the stamps. These stamps were engraved and printed in sheets of 200 and divided into issue panes of 50 (5 x 10) with the stamps considered as lying on their side in the sheet (pane). Only one plate was used."

(Holmes Handbook and Catalogue of Canada and B.N.A. by L. Seale Holmes, M.D. copyrighted 1943, page 181.)

As we are already aware, the plate inscriptions in 1927 were at the centre of the upper panes and not in the four corners as in the case of the later series. The format of the block (number of stamps in the block), depends on the length of the inscription in the margin. The small stamps always require a minimum block of 8 while the larger format, the block may be of 4 or 6 stamps depending on the length of the inscription.

The basic plate block collection of this issue would consist of six plate blocks, one for each stamp. For the more serious collector, one would try to accumulate one plate block from each plate, for each stamp and therefore this type of collection would require 30 blocks to be complete.

One could also try to collect both the left and right side of each plate number of each stamp, for a grand total of 60 blocks. My personal collection consists of 58 blocks plus one imperforated plate block and one imperforated horizontaly plate block. It is therefore quite feasable to complete the basic collection of 60 blocks.

What has been lacking over the years in most catalogues is a system to identify the left and right plate blocks. This question may not be important for most collectors if one doesn't try to accumulate all 60 blocks. Even if one does collect both sides, one only has to compare the inscription on each block to know that they are different and therefore confirm that he has both, even though he doesn't know which one is which.

#143 - Plate 3UL since the plate number 3 is lower than N ° A

Nevertheless, the main purpose of this article and the next group of articles, is to furnish a schedule whereby one is able to identify whether he owns the right upper plate block or the left upper plate block. My schedules are not complete since I am relying

mostly on my own collection, but over a period of time, and with feedback from other plate block collectors, this list may eventually be completed.

Naturally, the easiest way to identify a block is to have a larger block, one that continues to a corner. In my own collection, I have been lucky enough to have one of the blocks of each plate number in a larger format to properly identify that position. Once this is done, one only has to verify the second block with the first to confirm that they are different and that gives us the data for the other position.

Basically there are two ways to identify a position: the first is by a visual distinction in the inscription, the second is by a measurement also in the plate inscription. The only catalogue that attempted to identify this distinction is Bileski's Plate Block Catalogues, (5th, 6th, 7th edition). I have not followed his method of measurements but rely mostly on the visual oddities. Both methods refer to the inscription in the upper margins. For example, all the plates of #142 have the following inscription "OTTAWA - N ° A" followed by a plate number (1 to 15) and followed by an order number (Ex: 943-V). When using the measurement method, one places the beginning of the measurement of a very good metric ruler (I use a German ruler) over the top of the A in "N ° A". Then one measures from the top of the A to the start of the order number, being the start of the 9 in "943-V". If it is too close to call, which often happens, the measurement will finish instead at the end of the order number, in this case the V.

An easier method, and the one in my schedule, works as follows: by visual distinction, I will attempt to identify an oddity in the inscription which is different in the left pane from the right pane. Naturally, I have to have both blocks for this to work, but the collector only needs one block to properly identify his own block. I have tried to identify an oddity in the inscription by referring to the stamp immediately under the inscription or in the top row of stamps. For example the "V" in the inscription in #142 plate 12, lines up with the margin in the UL position, but lines up with the year 1867 in the nearest stamp in the UR position. Therefore, if one has one block of 6 stamps, by lining the V in his own block, he knows which block he has. If one has the schedule with him, he can buy the proper block and be certain that he is buying the position that he is missing. I have found that most dealers do not attempt to identify the position and will identify it simply as an upper position. This method is also useful in looking at photos in auction catalogues since it is impossible to measure distances in millimeters off a photo. One last point is that if one has a block up to a corner, but there is an arrow or a cutting line, this is the inner corner and the block is the opposite position. (For example, a cutting arrow on the right side confirms that one has an upper left block).

I plan to continue identifying these positions for the next issues, until we get to the easier four corner plate inscriptions.

If any of you have large blocks of the missing numbers, do not hesitate to send me a photocopy of the block, enlarged if possible. I have already, in many cases, both the left and right blocks in my own collection, but some are the minimum formats and I can't distinguish the left from the right.

With a photocopy I'll be able to identify the proper position and identify them from my own blocks.❐

Note: The author welcomes correspondance and inquiries from collectors at D. LeBlanc, 163 Grande Allée, Caraquet, N.B., Canada, E1W 1A5.

SCHEDULE
Confederation Issue of 1927

Scott #	Plate Position	Size of Block	Identification feature
141	1UL	8	
	1UR	8	
(Darnell #138)	2UL	8	4 of 943 is closer to 9 than to 3
	2UR	8	4 of 943 is closer to 3 than to 9
	3UL	8	3 of 943 lines up with margin
	3UR	8	3 lines up with left side of stamp
	4UL	8	3 of 943 lines up with margin
	4UR	8	3 lines up with left side of stamp
	5UL	8	3 of 943 on same level as H
	5UR	8	3 of 943 is higher than the H
	6UL	8	4 of 943 is closer to 9 than 3
	6UR	8	4 of 943 is closer to 3 than 9
141a)	5UL	8	Imperforated See 5UL above
	6UL	8	Imperforated See 6UL above
	4	8	Imperforated Unknown for now
141i	6UR	8	Imperf. vertically See 6UR above
141ii	4UL	8	Imperf. horizontally See 4UL above
	6UR	8	Imperf. horizontally See 6UR above
	5UR	8	Imperf. horizontally See 5UR above
142	1UL	6	9 of 943 is above ER of Confederation
	1UR	4	9 of 943 is above RA of Confederation
	2UL	4	9 is above ON of Confederation
(Darnell #139)	2UR	4	9 is above date and C of Confederation
	3UL	6	9 is above AT of Confederation
	3UR	4	9 is above DE of Confederation
	4UL	4	9 of 943 is lower than 43
	4UR	4	9 of 943 is higher than 43
	5UL	4	943 are all on the same level
	5UR	4	9 is higher than 4 and 3
	6UL	6	9 lines up with the T in Confederation
	6UR	6	9 lines up with RA in Confederation
	7UL	4	9 lines up with DE in Confederation
	7UR	6	9 lines up with ERA in Confederation
	8UL	6	9 lines up with I of Confederation
	8UR	4	9 lines up with R of Confederation
	9UL	4	9 lines up with ON of Confederation
	9UR	4	9 lines up with NF of Confederation
	10UL	6	9 lines up with ON of Confederation
	10UR	6	9 lines up with AT of Confederation
	11UL	4	9 lines up with AT of Confederation
	11UR	6	9 lines up with ER of Confederation

Scott #	Plate Position	Size of Block	Identification feature
	12UL	6	Plate number 12 are even
	12UR	6	1 in the plate # is lower than 2
	13UL	6	9 lines up with IO of Confederation
	13UR	6	9 lines up with AT of Confederation
	14UL	6	9 lines up with IO of Confederation
	14UR	6	9 lines up with RA of Confederation
	15UL	6	V is directly above 67 without a dash above V
	15UR	6	V is directly above 18 with a dash above V
142a	13	6	Imperforated Unknown for now
142i	13UL	6	Imperf. vertically
142i	12UR	6	Imperf. horizontally See 12UR above
	13UR	6	Imperf. horizontally See 13UR above
	14UR	6	Imperf. horizontally See 14UR above
143	1UL	4	3 lines up in between Confederation and the year 1927
	1UR	4	3 lines up with ON of Confederation
(Darnell #140	2UL	6	One red dot under the ° in N ° A
	2UR	6	Two red dots under the ° in N ° A
	3UL	6	3 is slightly lower than N ° A
	3UR	4	3 is slightly higher than N ° A
143a)	2UL	6	Imperforated
	2UR	6	Imperforated
	1	4	Imperforated unknown for now
	3UR	4	Imperforated See 3UR above
143i	1UL	4	Imperforated vertically See 1UL above
	1UR	4	Imperforated vertically
	3UR	4	Imperforated vertically See 3UR above
143ii	1UL	4	Imperforated horizontally
	2UL	6	Imperforated horizontally See 2UL above
	3UL	6	Imperforated horizontally See 3UL above
-	3UR	4	Imperforated horizontally See 3UR above
144	1UL	8	Plate #1 lines up with CO of Conf.
	1UR	8	Plate #1 lines up with margin b/w stamps
(Darnell # 141)	2UL	8	G is above NFE of Confederation
	2UR	8	G is above EDE of Confederation
	3UL	8	9 is lower than the 4 in 943
	3UR	8	9 is higher than the 4 in 943
144a	2	8	Imperforated unknown for now
144i	2UL	8	Imperforated vertically See 2UL above
	2UR	8	Imperforated vertically
144ii	2UR	8	Imperforated horizontally See 2UR above
145	1UL	6	4 of 943 lines up with margin
	1UR	6	3 of 943 lines up with margin
(Darnell	2UL	6	9 is higher than 43
#142)	2UR	6	9 is lower than 43
145a)	2UL	6	Imperforated
	2UR	6	Imperforated See 2UR above
l45i	2UL	6	Imperforated vertically See 2UL above
	2UR	6	Imperforated vertically See 2UR above
145ii	2UL	6	Imperforated horizontally See 2UL above
	2UR	6	Imperforated horizontally See 2UR above
E3	1UL side	6	9 is lower than 43
(Darnell #143)	1LL side	6	9 is higher than 43
E3a)	1UL side	6	Imperforated See 1UL side
	1LL side	6	Imperforated See 1UR side
E3i	1UL side	6	Imperforated horizontally
	1LL side	6	Imperforated horizontally
E3ii	1UL side	6	Imperforated vertically
	1LL side	6	Imperforated vertically

Musical Instruments on Canadian Stamps

by Alena Pascual

This series of articles will present an alphabetical listing of musical instruments to be found on Canadian stamps and related First Day Covers and cancellations.

Accordion: A stamp was issued on August 12, 1994 to honour *chansonnière* Mary Travers, better known as La Bolduc. Her musical talents included proficiency on several musical instruments, namely the violin, harmonica, accordion, and the *guimbarde*, commonly known as a jew's-harp. The main image of La Bolduc on the stamp was taken from a photo (circa 1937).

The three figures in the background are, from left to right, Bolduc at a younger age, playing the harmonica; Madame Augustine Villeneuve, playing the accordion; and Gustave Dorion on the violin (Fig. 1).

Villeneuve and Dorion used to accompany Bolduc at the musical get-togethers which took place at the Bolduc home. In Quebec, the combination of accordion, harmonica, and fiddle is often used in the repertoire of dance music such as jigs and reels.

Bagpipe: The bagpipe is shown on two stamps. The first was issued in 1973 (Fig. 2), on the occasion of the bicentennial of the arrival in Pictou, Nova Scotia, of Scottish settlers.

The illustration recalls that the settlers came ashore from the *Hector* accompanied by a piper. A small part of the bagpipe is also seen on the OFDC cachet.

More recently, the 1997 Highland Games stamp shows piper John Hugh MacDonald, who was a competitor in the 1996 Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario.

Fig. 1 Mary Travers was known for her many musical talents. **Fig. 2** (right) The bagpipes first appeared on a Canadian stamp in 1973 to mark the bicentennial of the arrival of Scottish settlers to the shores of Nova Scotia.

Also seen on the stamp is Russell W. Pretty playing the drum.

There is as well a photo on the OFDC of four men in Highland uniform dancing, accompanied by a piper (Fig. 3).

On the back of the OFDC is a photo, taken at the 1996 Maxville Games, of the Halifax Regional Police Service Pipes and Drums Band.

Bagpipes are also found on a 1935 cover. In that year, a number of special flights between Halifax and Sydney took place from July 29 to August 3, as part of Sydney's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Special cachets were authorized by the Post Office Department, to be applied at both Halifax and Sydney, with a different cachet for each day and for each city. Sydney's July 29 design included bagpipes (Fig. 4).❐

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Our Resident Iconoclast

Michael Millar, FRPSC

Just what does A*A mean?

The British Coded Time system of 1894 has always been a bit of a mystery to many people. While it is a subject that I could give a full article treatment to in a future issue of "CP", what follows will deal with the subject in general terms.

It is generally understood that datestamp codes are related to a letterbox collection time. In rural or small urban offices this was not a big concern. An office with, say, three collections - morning, afternoon and evening - would likely use A, B and C. But large cities with multiple letterbox closing times and large sorting staffs such as London, Birmingham and Liverpool presented a big problem. Generally speaking each clerk would have to sign out a datestamp with a unique identification letter or number for use on his shift.

The datestamp also had provision for a letterbox collection code, usually a number. In this way the inspectors, with a table of codes, could identify the clerk who handled the letter, in the event that a misrouting or delay complaint was received. This was extremely cumbersome and time consuming. A simpler method was required.

For a number of years the Telegraph Department of the Post Office had been using a code consisting of a series of letters to denote the time a telegram was received at the delivery office. It was suggested this could be adapted for use by the Post Office.

With this code it was possible to give the time in five-minute intervals for the whole 24 hours. The hours from 1 to 12 used letters A to M (J, for some reason, was not used, although it is known in some datestamp proofbook impressions). The five-minute intervals from 5 to 55 were given letters A to L - again J was not used, and A.M. and P.M. were simply shown as either A or P. This gives a possible 288 different time codes for 24 hours.

The leading British authority on Coded Time, Mr. J.A.E. Moy, has recorded an example for nearly all of the 144 P.M. code combinations, but only 82 for the 144 A.M. combinations, with the majority of these between 1 and 6 a.m. The Telegraph Code used no separator between the letters, but the Post Office, after some experimentation, settled on an asterisk between the time and the A or P. Thus the example shown at the top of this articles, A*A would denote a time of 1 A.M.

While use of the asterisk separator was prevalent in England, Scotland and Wales, some early examples from Birmingham as well as many of the Irish offices used a small square, instead of an asterisk.

Experimental use was authorized at certain offices in October, 1892 and I believe that I own the earliest recorded example, 30 November 1892, in a London Hooded Circle datestamp.

Experiments were also conducted at certain other offices, notably Birmingham and Liverpool, with general use commencing in March, 1894.

Officially the system was short-lived. Clear time was authorized late in 1894 and clock code usage declined rapidly after 1895. But, as is usually the case, small offices continued using the system long after its use had ceased elsewhere. My own dates run from the London, noted above, to 11 October 1915 at Copplestone, Devonshire.

The latest recorded date is from the small village of Snape, Suffolk, 21 September, 1931.

Mr. Moy has published several monographs on the subject and the following data is extracted: Offices using the system, with the recorded date range: London (all) - 32, 30 November 1892 (London, Hooded Circle datestamp I) - 19 June 1915 (London/77); England - 384, 17 November 1892 (Liverpool) - 21 September 1931 (Snape, Suffolk); Wales - 42, 31 March 1894 (Cardiff) - 16 August 1927 (Llanddulas, Denbigh); Scotland - 8, 17 January 1894 (Perth) - 26 October 1895 (Iverness); Ireland - 94, 5 April 1894 (Ballisodare, Co. Sligo) - 15 April 1909 (Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath).

I hope that you have found the foregoing to be of interest.❐

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VIGNETTES OF EARLY BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

by J.C. Arnell, FRPSC

XLX

Duplicate Letters and Associated Pairs of Letters

Because of the hazards of crossing the oceans in the days of sail — due to weather, privateers and the many years of war in the 18th and early 19th centuries — letters of any importance were often sent in duplicate, triplicate, and in rare occasions in quadruplicate, depending on the necessity of ensuring that their contents reached the addressee.

Fortunate is the collector who has succeeded in finding pairs of such letters, which, if surviving, would have reached their destination by different routes and at different times. Even when they did, there was no assurance that more than the first copy to be received would have been filed — the other being discarded. I have never seen any reference to what percentage of duplicate letters were both delivered, nor how many of these were both retained. So one can only speculate of what their availability is likely to be to the collector. From my own experience, most have been separated and are only matched over the years, often from sources in different countries.

I have been fortunate enough to find five pairs of duplicate letters, which extend over a period of nearly 50 years and cover mercantile matters in both peace and war. In addition, I have three pairs of letters, which are not duplicates, but are so closely associated as to be considered together. These are all discussed in the following.

1. DUPLICATE LETTERS – Consignee's Letter – 1796 (Figure 1)

A 10 September 1796 bill of lading for a shipment of four packages, whose identifying marks were shown on the upper left of the original copy as 'D/FW 35 @ 38'. The contents shows that No. 35 contained nine bundles of spades; No. 36, four bundles of shovels; No. 37, a cask of hardware; and No. 38, a cask of clothing, jewellery, etc., valued at £414 .2.6, being shipped by Wm. & Jos. Wallis

from Birmingham. The original copy, which accompanied the shipment, was sent unpaid to the care of John Montgomery in Liverpool, who was charged 5d. Stg. inland postage. Montgomery would have arranged for a vessel departing for Philadelphia to take the shipment, and gave the letter to the captain thereof to deliver along with the shipment on arrival. At Philadelphia, the bill of lading was accepted by the Post Office as a 'Consignee Letter' and no ship letter fee charged.

The duplicate of the bill of lading was mailed at the same time in Birmingham with 1s. 5d. Stg. postage prepaid to New York — 5d. inland postage to Falmouth, Cornwall and 1s. 0d. packet postage to New York. It was struck with a double circle 'PAID' in transit through London on 14 September, and was carried by the Princess of Wales packet from Falmouth on 24 September, which called at Halifax on 15-20 October, and was then convoyed to New York because of the French Revolutionary War. At New York, the letter was rated 20 cents inland Postage to Philadelphia.

While there is no indication of when either letter was received, it may be assumed that the packet letter arrived before the shipment, because the original accompanying it was marked 'Duplicate' on the back.

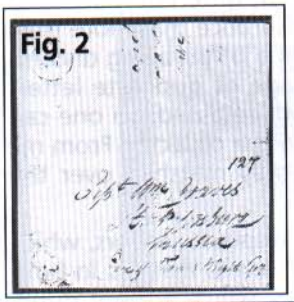
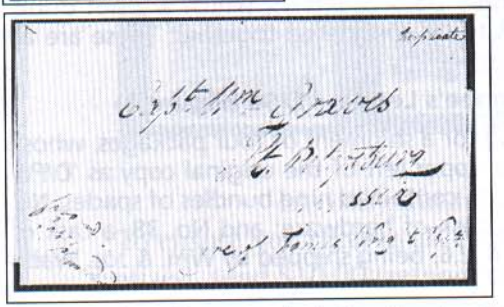


Fig. 2

A Merchant to a Captain Marooned by War – 1815 (Figure 2)

This pair of letters are the last of a series of five I have been fortunate to collect from a variety of sources over a number of years. They are from Francis Todd of Newburyport, Massachusetts to one of his trading captains, who was in St. Petersburg, Russia at the outbreak of the War of 1812.



The first letter was written within days of the start of the war and told Captain Graves to stay where he was in order to avoid the capture of the Abigail by the British. The next two letters were written in 1813 and 1814 and were in the nature of keeping in touch and arranging for funds to be forwarded to the captain. This pair were the last in the series and read in part: "I now have the pleasure in informing you that the Treaty of Peace that was made at Gent by our commissioners & rattified in England has been duly rattified by our Government. You will now be able to leave Russia as soon as the ice brakes up without fear of capture or the trouble of convoy."

Both letters were sent to the 'Care of Thomas Wright Esqr', who was presumably the U.S. consular representative In St. Petersburg, and marked 'Favourd by Capt. Plummer'. The original has an illegible extremely faint red fleuron British colonial datestamps and a red manuscript '1/8' (1s. 8d.), indicating that it was mailed at Halifax, Nova Scotia with the packet postage to London prepaid.

It was carried by the Osborne packet from thence and arrived at Falmouth on 22 April. It was backstamped at the G.P.O. Foreign Branch in London and forwarded to St. Petersburg, where Captain Graves received it on 22 May. The duplicate, so marked, was presumably carried to St. Petersburg by Captain Plummer and delivered privately.

Business Letter from Liverpool – 1819 (Figure 3)

This pair of letters were dated 7 March 1819 and dealt with receipts and sales of goods received 1818. The original was marked 'p. Caroline Ann' sailing for New York and the duplicate 'Falcon via Boston'. However, both were taken to New York and entered as Ship Letters on 26 April (original) and 25 April (duplicate), struck with 'SHIP' and rated 20 1/2 cents U.S. postage due – 2 cents ship letter fee + 18 1/2 cents inland postage to the Canadian border.

Fig. 3

At Montreal, this charge was converted to 1s. 1d. Cy. and 9d. Cy. B.N.A. inland postage added to the letter arriving first — the duplicate — for a total postage due of 1s 10d. Cy.; while only 6d. Cy. inland postage was added to the second (original) letter for a postage due of 1s. 7d. Cy. Not only is this a nice pair as duplicates, but fortuitously they reached Montreal on the opposite sides of a postage rate change. Following the example of the U.S. Post Office, the Montreal postmaster had introduced a 50 per cent 'war' surcharge between 17 May 1815 and 30 April 1819 on top of the 1 1/2d. Cy. border transfer fee and 4 1/2d. Cy. inland postage from the border, or 6d. + 3d. Cy.

Fig. 4

Sail and Steam Freight Money Letters – 1839 (Figure 4)

This pair from Baltimore enclosed bills of account, and were therefore rated as double letters. The original was mailed on 5 June 1839 with 37 1/2 cents (2 x 18 3/4 cents) inland postage to New York, plus 25 cents (2 x 12 1/2 cents) sailing packet freight money prepaid. This was carried by the George Washington of the Blue Swallowtail Line on 8 June from New York to Liverpool, where it was

backstamped with 'LIVERPOOL/SHIP LETTER' and rated 3s. 2d. Stg. postage due as a double letter to London—2 x 8d. ship letter fee + 2 x 11d. inland postage. It was backstamped at London on 25 June.

The duplicate was mailed on 11 June with 50 cents (2 x 25 cents) steamship freight money, instead of 25 cents as the original. It was carried by the Great Western of the Great Western Steam Ship Co. from New York on 13 June and arrived at Bristol on 27 June, where it was backstamped with 'BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER' and rated 2s. 10d. Stg. postage due — the difference being the single rate inland postage to London from Bristol was 2d. less than Liverpool. It reached London on 28 June.

Sailing Packet Freight Money Letters – 1843 (Figure 5)

This pair of letters were also from Baltimore enclosing bills of account and, being intended for sailing packets only had 25 cents freight money paid. The first, marked to go by the 7 April Blue Swallowtail packet to Liverpool, was mailed on 5 April; on arrival at Liverpool, it was backstamped with a boxed 'AP 25 43 LIVERPOOL SHIP' and rated 8d. Stg. postage due a ship letter weighing less than half an ounce. The second, marked to go by the 10 April Red Swallowtail packet to London, was mailed on 8 April; on arrival at London, it was backstamped with 'SHIP LETTER' and also rated 8d. Stg. postage due.

2. ASSOCIATED LETTERS.

Consignee Letter and Billing Letter – 1799 (Figure 6)

This pair of letters are from the same firm as the duplicates shown in Figure 1. In this case, the first letter was a 10 July 1799 bill of lading similar to that of the 1796 shipment, but sent to a different forwarding agent in Liverpool, viz. Messrs. Thomas Lang & Co. Being an unpaid multipage document, it was

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

charged 2s. 11d. Stg. postage on delivery at Liverpool. It then accompanied the shipment on the America, Capt. Sands to Philadelphia, where it was rated 6 cents postage due as a ship letter for the port of arrival.

Fig. 7

The second letter of the same date was simply a bill for shipping charges and insurance on the shipment, including canal freight charges from Birmingham to Liverpool. Included in the billing was: 'Returns 3 pCt convoy for voyage – 2 pCt sailing with armed Ship or Ships, W. India Halifax or Newfoundland & arrives.' It read in part: 'The uncertainty of a Convoy prevented the vessel sailing as soon as must be desirable for your season of Business....' And in a different hand: 'this Vessel sailed with an Armed Ship.' It was carried by the Two Friends in the same convoy, and was landed at Baltimore on 29 April 1800 and rated 14 1/2 cents postage due – 2 cents ship letter fee + 12 1/2 cents inland postage to Philadelphia.

Cartel Letters – 1813 (Figure 7)

These are sequential letters from Richmond, Virginia dated 8 and 20 February 1813. The first stated that the writer hoped to forward a document 'by this Cartell if possible & can get it ready. She is expected to sail in 8 or 10 Days from New York'. While the contents of the second letter were on different matters, they were carried by the same vessel, which, as indicated on its front was the Pacific. I have a contemporary Portsmouth, New Hampshire ship letter in my collection, which identifies the Pacific as a cartel.

That both letters were carried by the Pacific is shown by the 'LISBON 15 May 1813 F' datestamp on each, which indicated that the letters had been handed in loose to the Lisbon-Falmouth packet sailing for England, so that on arrival loose at Falmouth, they were struck with this to show that they had arrived on a packet and were therefore liable for packet postage, as opposed to ship letter charges, and rated 2s. 7d. Stg. postage due – 1s. 3d. packet postage + 1s. 4d. inland postage to Kirkcudbright.

Letters related to the Iron Vessel Shandon – 1856 (Figure 8)

The first letter is a 28 February 1856 letter from a pipe manufacture in Glasgow, acknowledging an order for pipe, and replying to a query about the purchase of an iron vessel for carrying coal. While the drawbacks of such a purchase are explained, a specification of their own iron vessel Shandon was enclosed. This was mailed the same day with the postage unpaid, backstamped at the Liverpool post office and packet office, and struck with '7' to show the British debit of 7d. Stg. It was carried by the Cunard Arabia from Liverpool on 1

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March and arrived at Boston on 14 March in a closed bag for Toronto. At Toronto, it was struck with '10' to show 10d. Cy. postage due.

The second letter was a 25 March 1856 invoice for the pipe being shipped on the Shandon, and accompanied the pipe. It was datestamped at Montreal on 1 March and rated 1/2d. Cy. postage due as a Consignee's Letter.

This was used for the Customs clearance of the pipe, for it was datestamped on the inside with a double circle 'PORT OF MONTREAL MAY 2 1856'.❐

Fig. 8

Letters ...continued from page 234

According to the files at the National Archives (reference numbers RG 3, files 3296 and 2749), a Department Circular dated Dec. 2, 1898 was sent from Ottawa to Postmasters to introduce the new stamp.

The circular stated: "The new stamp will be available, forthwith, to the extent of its value, for the prepayment of postage on all classes of mail matter to all destinations, whether domestic, British or Foreign."

According to page 1/74 from the American Bank Note Co., records of Post Office Department Orders, the first 100 sheets of the Imperial Postage stamp were delivered in Ottawa on Friday, Dec. 2. The next shipment of 1,000 sheets was delivered on Tuesday, Dec. 6. One sheet of 100 stamps was delivered to the Postmaster General on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The time of delivery is not shown. Was it possible that the stamp would be available in Toronto on the same day it was delivered in Ottawa? Would it get there in time by train to have a Dec. 2 date with a flag cancel? Does anyone have a train schedule to verify times?

The December 2 date could well be a puzzle with no answer that will satisfy everyone, and that may be the reason why expertization companies refuse to give an opinion one way or the other. If the cover had been postmarked Ottawa, then the probability of authenticity would not be questioned. But Toronto?

Copies of pages 74 and 75 of the ABNC order book were supplied courtesy of Bill Pawluck. The order book is dated Nov. 24, 1898 and signed by R.M. Coulter (Deputy Postmaster General). The signature looks the same as that which is on other authentic letters signed by Coulter which are in this writer's possession. There is no doubt that the pages are genuine. The pages show the delivery dates of the entire 19,927,500 stamps printed by ABNC and the dates on which the post office was billed. The shipping/billing dates span the period Dec. 2, 1898 to Dec. 31, 1899.

The pages also raise several other questions, and once the answers are found, the information will be communicated to you.

Bill Pekonen

Richmond, B.C.

More Letters

Mr Glako has submitted the following two letters which must remind us all that sometimes the message in old correspondence can be just as interesting as the markings or the route.

Mr. Editor,

I was looking at my stampless folded covers the other day. I buy these from time to time at various stamp shows because I'm not so much interested in their postal markings as in the messages. All of them are fascinating!

Two of these letters - written in 1838 and 1840 respectively - might have been written yesterday! I enclose copies of these with my brief comments. (Other than identifying the senders and recipients by their initials only, I have made no other changes in these letters). It would be interesting to get feedback from some readers.

Norman Gulko
15 Rockford Rd.
Apt. 1105
Willowdale, Ont.
M2R 3A3

Letter A

The more things change, the more they stay the same. This first letter of 160 years ago gives some insights into the nature and purpose of: COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

Philadelphia, November 16th 1838
Mr. J.B.E.,
Secretary of the St. John's Society,
New York
Sir/

Your letter of the 12th inst. addressed to W.C.C. Esq., President of the "the Society of the Sons of St. George"of this City, relative to the loan of the Portrait of her Majesty Queen Victoria for the St. George's Society of New York, - now being painted by Mr. S - was laid before a Committee approved by the Society here, who have charge of the Painting, and the said Committee has requested me to reply to you, that as the Painting is yet unfinished, and is still in the hands of Mr. S. the Committee do not feel themselves at liberty to make any arrangements for the exhibition of it, either here or elsewhere, until the Society, at a General Meeting, direct them as to its disposal.

At the same time, they direct me to assure the St. George Society of New York their lively interest in the welfare of their benevolent Institution of our Brethern in your City, whose objects are so much identified with our own.

Respectfully, your friend and Servant,
J.S.
Secretary of the Society
of the Sons of St. George

Letter B

This second letter, of 158 years ago, gives some insights into the nature and purpose of: BUREAUCRACY

District General Order
Toronto 6th March 184
Relative to paying men 12/6 in lieu of trowsers
Lt. H.
A.A.G.
Hamilton Duplicate
Toronto March 6th 1840
District General Order

With reference to paragraph No. 4 of the Assistant Adjutant General's Circular to Officers Commanding Districts of 24th October 1839, every militia man who has not received a pair of trowsers under the provisions of the Circulars will receive in lieu thereof the sum of 12/6 Sterling -

This allowance will be paid upon receipted Pay Lists in quadruplicate, made out upon forms as far as practicable, similar to those now in use for the commutation of Rations Fee, and Commanding Officers are desired to lose no time in transmitting these and returning for the approval of His Excellency the Major General Commanding -

By Order
Lt. H.
A.A.G.

So what else is new?

The Short Story Column

by "Raconteur"

One of the states in that large Continent "Down Under", known as Australia, is called the Northern Territory. Within its boundaries lies Ayers Rock, a reddish brown, roughly circular rock mass, or monolith, said to be the world's largest.

This great rock is 2.4 kilometres long and 1.6 kilometres wide, having a circumference of about 9.6 kilometres. That's quite a hike if you want to walk around it! And if you want to climb it, well, the summit rises to 335 metres, almost as high as the world's tallest building!

It can be climbed, although with some difficulty. From the top of the rough-surfaced flattened top of the rock, which has permanent pools of water, you'd see flat desert country that makes up so much of Australia.

It was discovered in 1872 and named for Sir Henry Ayers, premier of the State of South Australia, which then included the Northern Territory.

The rock is sacred to aboriginal tribes of the area and their ancestors' rock paintings are to be found on the rock walls and within its caves. Many aboriginal legends deal with the rock and its features.

Ayers Rock is now part of the Uluru National Park, which has been designated as a World Heritage Site. But it has been "returned" to the aborigines, who now have control of tourist access to this amazing phenomenon of nature. The rock is quite a sight, for it seems to change colour in the sunlight.

Australia is a long way from Canada and I'm sure that many of my readers cannot afford to visit there and see Ayers Rock "in the flesh" but we can all visit it very easily through - Philately!❐

Exchanges Wanted / Demandes d'échange

Since the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is the national society of philatelists in Canada, many requests for exchange partners are referred to us. As a service to our members, we are pleased to present these names, so that those who wish to do so can make overseas contacts. Please note that we have no way of checking the credentials of the individuals who write to us asking that their names be published; therefore, we urge that caution be taken when answering these requests.

La Société royale de philatélie duy Canada ne s'occupe pas normalement des échanges entre philatélistes, mais comme elle est la société philatélique nationale du Canada, ou lui transmet de nombreses demandes de philatélistes désireux de trouver des corrspondants pour échanger des timbres. Ainsi atelle décidé, pour rendre service à ses membres, de publier les noms intéressés d'outremer, afin que ceux qui désirent établir des rapports avec eux puissent la faire. Je vous signale toutefois que nous ne savons rien des personnes qui nous demandent de publier leur nom, c'est pourquoi je vous conseille d'être prudent en épondant à ces demandes d'échange.

Vjacheslav Kovalenko
Post Restante
M.P. Office
Kiev 252001, UKRAINE
"I collect unused (mint) fauna, ships, aviation stamps of USA and Canada. I suggest mint stamps of the ex-USSR, mint stamps of the USSR from 1961 until 1991 and I suggest used and mint stamps of the USSR from 1937 I hope you can help me."

Jean Louis Mathieu
Sergeysstraat, 4
B - 3020 Herent, BELGIË
"One year ago, I wrote a letter to get four or five correspondents in Canada. Today, I receive three letters from three correspondents with used stamps from Canada, USA and some from Australia. I have 50,000 used stamps from all the countries in Europe - France, Germany, Finland, England and others. The letters I get every day are a real life-bouy. I would like to increase the stamp traffic between Canada and Belgium and I would like to get more letters. I hope that you can help me because I am glad and proud to send all the best Europeans stamps to Canada."

Jan Szwej
Küna 39
42-256 Olsztyn
woj Czestochowa, POLAND
"I am interested in exchanging stamps. I can send you mint complete sets from Poland, Czechslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Cuba, Mongolia, Red Korea, Vietnam, USSR and of ex-USSR countries in all topical sets - flora, fauna, sport, paintings etc. Write want lists using Michel and Scott catalogues. I want mint stamps, sheets, panes, booklets, self adhesive stamps since 1994 to 1998 from Canada, USA, Great Britain."

Amelia Claude
rue Latérale, 22
7850 Enghien
BELGIQUE
"Je sollicite votre haute bienveillance car je suis philatéliste débutant et suite à un courrier auprés de votre ambassade en Belgique, il m'a été conseillé de m'adresser à vos services afin que je puisse obtenir et que vous m'envoyer le plus grand nombre de timbres-poste possible pour m'aider à bien commencer ma collection.
Vous en remerciant, j'espére une suite favorable à la presénte."

Franco Vasni
Via Settala 55
20120 Milano
ITALY
"I would like to know Canadian stamp collectors to exchange my used Italian stamps with those Canadian."

RPSC Foundation News

Angeline Anders of Edmonton, Alberta was selected as Young Canadian Philatelist of the Year for 1997 by a Committee of the Foundation during ROYAL CALTAPEX *1997* ROYALE held at Calgary in September 1997.

Ms. Anders has been collecting stamps since she was nine-years-old. When she first started with the Edmonton Stamp Club she said that she collected everything. She later refined her collection to "The British Royal Family" and "The International Red Cross".

Angeline Anders, the 1997 Young Canadian Philatelist of the Year.

Her "British Royal Family" exhibit has been exhibited internationally for five years at CAPEX '96, INDONESIA '96 and JUVALUX '98 in Luxembourg.

Angeline recently graduated from Career College with a Legal Secretary Diploma and works in a lawyer's office. Her other interests are singing and dancing for which she has won several awards in the Jazz and Tap dancing categories. She enjoys playing the clarinet and was a member of her high school band.

Future Young Canadian Philatelists of the Year 1999 and beyond

The RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation has entered into an agreement with Canada Post Corporation to jointly select future Young Canadian Philatelists of the Year.

The Foundation is quite pleased that, from 1999 on, this important award will be given wider promotion and the selection process will include many more potential candidates. Modalities for the selection process will be announced by the two organizations early in the fall.❐

Angeline Anders, d'Edmonton, Alberta a été choisie comme Jeune philatéliste canadienne pour 1997 par un comité de la Fondation pendant ROYAL CALTAPEX *1997* ROYALE tenue à Calgary en septembre 1997. Mlle Anders avait neuf ans lorsqu'elle a commencée à collectionner les timbres. Lors de ses débuts au Edmonton Stamp Club elle collectionnait tout. Depuis, elle se concentre sur la Famille royale britannique et la Croix-rouge internationale. Sa collection "The British Royal Family" a été en compétition au niveau international à CAPEX '96, INDONESIE '96 et à JUVALUX '98 au Luxembourg.

Angeline Anders vient de terminer ses cours de secrétariat légal au Career College et travaille dans une firme d'avocats. Ses autres intérêts inclus le chant et la danse. Elle a gagné plusieurs prix dans les catégoiries de danse Jazz et Tap. Elle prends plaisir à jouer de la clarinette et elle fut membre de l'Harmonie à son école secondaire.

Les jeunes philatélistes canadiens pour 1999 et aprés

La Foundation de recherche philatélique SRPC et la Société canadienne des postes ce sont mis d'accord pour établir un partenariat pour le choix des jeunes philatélistes canadiens de l'année du futur. La Fondation voit d'un trés bon oeil que ce prix important verra une promotion accrue et que le processus de sélection incluera beaucoup plus de candidats potentiels. Les modalités du processus de sélection seront annoncées par les deux organisations au début de l'automne.❐

ERRATA

In my Open Letter to Oleg Podymow published in the May-June issue of The Canadian Philatelist (page 200-2), I wrote erroneously that the next British North America Philatleic Society (BNAPS) meeting was scheduled for Vernon, BC, next October. In fact, BNAPS will meet in Orlando, Florida, October 8-10, 1998, at the Holiday Inn International Drive Resort. My sincere apologies to BNAPS and its members for this mistake and thanks to Horace Harrison of Baltimore for pointing it out to me. Charles J. G. Verge

The Honourable André Ouellet, P.C. Q.C. President of Canada Post Corporation, receiving his Honourary Life Membership in the The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada from the President of the Society, Dr. Keith Spencer.- Keith Spencer, Ph. D., Président de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada, remet le certificat de Membre à vie honoraire de la Société à l'Honorable André Ouellet, c.p., c.r. Président du Conseil d'Administration de la Société canadienne des postes.

Little-known Canadian Facts

The critics of this stamp were probably not aware that Guglielmo Marconi really did have a greenish complexion as a result of a family condition caused by an excess of chlorophyll.

Marconi was born in the Lombarda region of Northern Italy, near the birthplace of Guiseppi Verdi who may have suffered from the same malady, hence his name. In 1901, Marconi transmitted the first wireless message across the Atlantic, from Cornwall to St. John's, Newfoundland.❐

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

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

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

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T5R 1K8

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L5B 4A7
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Coming Events / Calendrier

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

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

REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

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

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

OCTOBER 24: Brantford Stamp Club annual exhibition and bourse at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street, Brantford, 10 am. to 4 pm. Free admission and parking, 13 dealers, sales circuit, beginners' booth, exhibits, lunch counter, draws and prizes. For more information contact Show Convenor, Brantford Stamp Club, P.O. Box 25003, West Brant Postal Outlet, 119 Colborne Street West, Brantford, ON, N3T 6K5.

OCTOBER 24-25: VANPEX 98, annual exhibition and bourse at the Landmark Hotel, 1400 Robson St., Vancouver BC, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission. For information: Maurice Guibard, 101-1537 Charles St., Vancouver BC, V5L 2T2, (604) 253-9311.

NOVEMBER 7, KENTPEX '98 The Kent County Stamp Club will hold its 68th Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse at the Wheels Motor Inn at the corner of Richmond Street at Keil Drive, Chatham, ON. Stamps, postal history, philatelic supplies and many dealers. Free admission and parking. For more information call 519-354-1845.

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

APRIL 16-18, 1999: Lakeshore Stamp Club Annual Exhibition at the Dorval Community Centre. For more information write Lakeshore Stamp Club, P.O. Box 1, Pointe-Claire/Dorval, Quebec, H9R 4N5.

HOST AN ANNUAL MEETING

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is accepting applications to host, or expressions of interest in organizing the Annual Meetings for the years following 2001. It is not too early to begin the planning necessary and claim your interest in a specific year. Please let us know if your organization is willing or interested in making a wonderful contribution to philately in general and to collectors in your area in particular. Direct your enquiries to: Graham McCleave; RPSC Convention Coordinator; 186 Willingdon Street; Fredericton, N. B. E3B 3A5

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

1998

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

1999

May 28-30: ROYAL*1999* ROYALE, annual convention, exhibition and dealers' bourse of the RPSC sponsored by the Fredericton District Stamp Club at the Fredericton Inn, Regent Street at Trans-Canada Hwy., Fredericton, New Brunswick. Hours: Friday 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday 9 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Information: Ron Smith, 12 Chateau Drive, McLeod Hill, NB, E3A 5X2; Phone: 506-453-1792; e-mail: rugbyron@nb.sympatico.ca

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INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

1998

OCT. 20-25: ILSAPEX 98, FIP sponsored show at Gallagher's Estate Exhibition Centre, 20 minutes from Johannesburg, South Africa. Information from the Commissioner: Mr. William G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC, V6M 3A7; (604) 261-1953; fax (604) 736-5097.

OCT. 23-NOV. 1: ITALIA 98, FIP sponsored show in Milan, Italy. Classes will be Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately, and Literature. Information from the Commissioner: Mr. Peter Madej, 30 Ormskirk Court, Toronto, ON, M6S 1B1.

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

1999

FEB. 25-28: AMERICAS 99, under the patronage of the FIAF and recognized by the FIP, to be held in Orlando, Florida (USA). Entry forms available from Harry Sutherland, P.O. Box 100, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON, M5X 1B2. Deadline for applications at the American Philatelic Society is July 1, 1999.

MAR. 19-24: AUSTRALIA 99, an FIP sponsored World Philatelic Exhibition, limited to Traditional, Postal Stationery, Revenues, and Social Philately, to be held in Melbourne. Commissioner: Mr. Owen White, Box 860, Stn. K, Toronto, ON, M4P 2H2; phone (416) 481-4731; fax (416) 482-4256;

E-mail: olwhite@zircon.geology.utoronto.ca

APR. 27-MAY 4: IBRA '99. World Exhibition under FIP patronage, in Nuremberg, Germany. Commissioner: Maj. R.K. Malott, 16 Harwick Cres., Ottawa, ON, K2H 6R1; (613) 829-0280; fax (613) 829-0280.

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

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

2000

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

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

Chapter Meetings/Réunions des clubs membres

AJAX PHILATELIC SOCIETY

RPSC Chapter 163 meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, September to June at Ajax Public Library, 65 Harwood Ave. S., from 6 to 9 pm. All new members and visitors are welcome. Address: P.O. Box 107, Ajax, ON, L1S 3C3. For information, contact Sam Calnek, (905) 831-9886.

AMICALE des PHILATÉLISTES de L'OUTAOUAIS

L'APO, chapitre 190 de la SRPC, se réunit tous les jeudi de début septembre é fin avril, de 18h30 é 21h00. Les réunions ont lieu au Centre Communautaire Tétreau Parc Moussette, Boul. Brunet, Hull. Les visiteurs et les nouvraux membres seront toujours les bienvenus. Visitors and new members are welcome. Information: P. Sarault, 82 rue Kent, Hull QC J8X 3K4.

CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE ARGENTEUIL STAMP CLUB

Chapter 118 meets 2nd Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 pm. Bilingual and bi-province meetings in Hawkesbury, ON and Lachute, PQ. Information: P.-Yves Séguin, 2888 Front Rd., Hawkesbury, ON, K6A 2T4.

CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE "LES TIMBRES" DE BOISBRIAND

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

BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 73 meets second Wednesday of each month except July and August at 7:30 pm at Parkview Centre, 189 Blake St., Barrie. Table Auction at every meeting. Visitors welcome. Contact: Sec.-Treas. Lew Metzger, Box 1113, Barrie, ON, L4M 5E2.

BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 144 meets 1st Sunday October to June inclusive (2-4 pm) and 3rd Tuesday year round (7:30-9:30 pm) at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.) Brampton, Ont. Visitors welcome. Correspondence: Bramalea Stamp Club, Box 92531, Bramalea, ON, L6W 4R1.

BRANTFORD STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 1 meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, September to May, and the first Tuesday in June, at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St., Brantford, ON Doors open at 7 pm, short business meeting at 8 pm, followed by a program. Circuit books, 5 dealers. Visitors welcome. Information: Secretary, Box 25003, 119 Colborne St. W., Brantford, ON, N3T 6K5; (519) 753-9425

BRITISH COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The British Columbia Philatelic Society meets every Wednesday, September to June at 7:30 pm in the Amenity Room, Grosvenor Building, 1040 W. Georgia St. Information: B.C.P.S., 2955 West 38th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6N 2X2.

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY

RPSC Chapter 187, The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society (CAS) welcomes anyone interested in aerophilately or astrophilately, worldwide. Yearly membership for Canadian and USA members is $15 and for all other countries $20. No formal meetings but members meet at the RA Stamp Club meetings at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, ON, at 7:30 pm every Monday except June, July and August. Information: Ron Miyanishi, 124 Gamble Ave., Toronto, ON, M4J 2P3. Tel: (416) 421-5846

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL PHILATELY (CAFIP)

Chapter 76, Jan Bart Judaica Study Group, meets 2nd Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 pm, at Bet Joseph Lubavitch, 44 Edinburgh Street East, Toronto. Contact: Joseph Berkovits, 33 - 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, M5A 1N1. Tel:. (416) 635-1749.

COLBORNE STAMP CLUB

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

CREDIT VALLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY - MISSISSAUGA -

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

DELTA STAMP CLUB

Chapter 138 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (except June through August) at 8 pm at the Phoenix Club, 6062 - 16th Ave., Delta, BC. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call 943-5738.

EAST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Chapter 12 meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays (except June, July and August) at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Ave. (first east of Woodbine, at Cosburn), north of arena. Visitors welcome. Sec.: Raymond Reakes, 188 Woodmount Ave., Toronto, ON, M4C 3Z4. Tel: (416) 425-1541.

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

Touring stampers, new members and guests are welcome to visit Edmonton's Chapter 6. Meetings every other Monday, September through June, 6:30 pm, at St. Joseph High School, 4th floor cafeteria, 109 St. and 108 Ave. Correspondence: Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6; Information: Keith Spencer, (403) 437-1787.

ESSEX COUNTY STAMP CLUB (WINDSOR)

Chapter 154 meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (4th Wednesday in July and August) at the Teutonia Club, 55 Edinborough, Windsor, ON. Meetings start at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Lots of parking; all visitors are welcome. Information: Essex County Stamp Club, c/o David L. Newman, 1165 Wigle Ave., Windsor, ON, N9C 3M9, (519) 977-5967.

ETOBICOKE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 78 meets at Fairfield Centre, 80 Lothian Way, Etobicoke at 7:30 pm, 1st Wednesday of every month except July and August. Visitors always welcome. Information: C.E. Allen, 5 Aintree Court, Etobicoke, ON, M8W 2E1. Phone 251-3425.

FENELON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 176 meets 2nd Monday of each month in the Fenelon Falls Community Hall behind the Village Office on Market Street at 7:30 pm. Visitors always welcome. Information from the President: Margaret Allen, R.R. 1, Fenelon Falls, ON, K0M 1N0.

GREATER VICTORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 32 meets on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay. Circuit books, auction and special programs prevail. Membership $8 per year. Visitors welcome. Information: Don Dundee, 928 Claremont Ave., Victoria, BC, V8Y 1K3, (604) 658-8458.

HAMILTON STAMP CLUB

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

KAWARTHA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 58, Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through June (excluding 4th Tuesday in December and June). Meetings 7 pm at St. Peters High School. Information: Lloyd Mosher, 1269 Royal Drive, Peterborough, ON, K9H 6R6.

KELOWNA & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 90 meets monthly, 2nd Wednesday, September to June at 7 p.m., Dr. Knox Middle School Cafeteria, 1555 Burtch Ave. Visitors welcome. Information: Box 1185, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 7P8.

KENT COUNTY STAMP CLUB (CHATHAM, ON)

Chapter 7 meets 4th Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December) in the library of John McGregor Secondary School, 300 Cecile, at 7:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Information from Secretary: Abie Heersma, 73 Jasper Ave., Chatham, ON, N7M 4C1.

KINGSTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 49 meets 2nd Monday, Sept.-May and 4th Monday, Sept.-Nov. and Jan.-Apr., at 8 pm, St. Thomas Anglican Church Hall, 130 Lakeview Ave. at Cranbrook (one block west of Days Rd. and one block north of Front Rd.) in Kingston Township. Free parking, visitors are always welcome. Information: President, Kingston Stamp Club, 1960 Hwy. 2 East, Kingston, ON, K7L 4V1; (613) 546-3332.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 13 meets 2nd Thursday every month (except July and August) at Albert McCormick Arena, Parkside Dr. Waterloo. Visitors welcome. Information: Betty J.

Martin, P.O. Box 43007, Eastwood Square Post Office, Kitchener, ON, N2H 6S9; 578-7782.

LAKEHEAD STAMP CLUB

Chapter 33 meets the 2nd Wednesday and last Friday of each month, September to June at the Herb Carroll Centre, 1100 Lincoln St., Thunder Bay, ON. Meetings start at 8 pm; visitors welcome. Sec.: D. Lein, 232 Dease St., Thunder Bay, ON, P7C 2H8.

LAKESHORE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 84 meets at Karnak Hall, 3350 Boulevard des Sources, Dollard des Ormeaux, QC, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, September to June at 7 pm. Information: Oleg Podymow, President, P.O. Box 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, PQ, H9R 4N5.

MILTON STAMP CLUB

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

MUSKOKA STAMP CLUB

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

NORTH BAY & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

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

NORTH SHORE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 198 meets on alternate Tuesdays, September through June, at North Vancouver City Library, 121 West 14th Street, North Vancouver, BC. Visitors are always welcome. For the current meeting schedule and information, call Erna Krische at 985-2810.

NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 21 meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month (except July and August when meetings are held on only the 3rd Wednesday) at 6:30 pm in the lounge of Centennial Arena, north side of Finch Ave. W., west of Bathurst. Sales circuit, auctions, speakers, lectures. Visitors welcome. Information: John Moffatt, Box 62, Willowdale, ON, M2N 5S7. Tel (905) 889-8720.

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB

The first affiliate of the RPSC, est. 1922, meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, September to June at the Nova Scotia Museum. Visitors are always welcome. Information: E. Sodero, 831 Tower Rd., Halifax, NS, B3H 2Y1.

OAKVILLE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 135 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm in the cafeteria, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School (formerly Perdue High School), 124 Margaret Drive (Lakeshore West/Dorval Drive), Oakville. Visitors welcome. Information: Oakville Stamp Club, Box 69643, Oakville, ON, L6J 7R4.

OTTAWA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 16 meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm, September through May, at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON. Visitors are always welcome. Information: Pres. Mitch Gosselin, (819) 682-6277; P.O. Box 65085, Merivale Postal Outlet, Nepean, ON, K2G 5Y3.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

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

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 65 meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, September to May, at Knights of Columbus Hall, behind St. Rita's Catholic Church (Dundas St. E.) Woodstock, ON. Trading and junior program at 7 pm, regular meeting at 7:30 pm. Speakers, mini auctions, draw prizes, contests, dealers. Information: Gib Stephens, P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8.

PENTICTON AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 127 meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 pm at the United Church Hall, 696 Main St., Penticton, B.C. A short business meeting is followed by circuit books every month. Visitors always welcome. Information: K. Giessen, 217 Redwing Pl., Penticton, BC, V2A 8K6. Tel.: (250) 493-0188.

PERTH STAMP CLUB

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

R.A. STAMP CLUB - OTTAWA

Chapter 41 meets every Monday (except June, July and August) at 7:30 pm at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa ON, K1H 7X7. Visitors welcome. Information: (613) 733-5100.

REGINA PHILATELIC CLUB

Chapter 10 meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, September through May, from 7-10 pm at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate Library, 2601 Coronation St., Regina. Visitors are always welcome. Information: Box 1891, Regina, SK, S4P 3E1.

ROYAL CITY STAMP CLUB

Chapter 104 meets 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 pm at Community Centre, 65 East Sixth Ave., by Canada Game Pool, corner of McBride, New Westminster, BC. Information: Box 145, Milner, BC, V0X 1T0. Phone 534-1884.

SAINT JOHN STAMP CLUB

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7 pm at the Saint John High School, Canterbury St., Saint John, NB. Visitors and new members welcome. Information: Saint John Stamp Club, 16 Mountain Road, Saint John, NB, E2J 2W8

ST. JOHN'S PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (except July and August), 8 pm at Cabot Institute. Visitors welcome. Information: J. Don Wilson, 11 Elm Place, St. John's, NF, A1B 2S4; (709) 726-2741.

SASKATOON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 80 meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, September through May, 7 to 9 pm at the Saskatoon Field House, 2020 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK. Visitors always welcome. Information from the secretary: Doug Smith, (306) 249-3092; e-mail: ae245@sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca

SIDNEY STAMP CLUB (SIDNEY, BC)

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

LA SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE QUÉBEC

La S.P.Q. tient ses réunions réguliéres les

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

SOUTH CARIBOO COIN AND STAMP CLUB
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The club meets 3rd Monday of each month at the 100 Mile House Elementary School Library. For information, contact Horst Stock, 395-4497.

STRATFORD STAMP CLUB

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

SUDBURY STAMP CLUB

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

TORONTO HARMONIE STAMP CLUB

Chapter 94 meets the 3rd Thursday each month, 7:30 pm, Victoria Park Secondary School, Library Seminar Room, 15 Wallingford Road, Don Mills ON. Information: J. Doehler, (416) 438-4862, or P. Mustard, (416) 690-9711.

UNION PHILATÉLIQUE DE MONTREAL

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

WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Chapter 14 meets 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays (except July and August), 7:30 pm at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, (Bloor/Islington area). Auctions, dealers, speakers, study group, annual exhibition. Visitors always welcome. Correspondence: 331 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9B 2L9. Tel: Contact Frank Alusio, (416) 621-8232.

WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays (except July and August), 7 pm in Room 308, Union Centre, 275 Broadway Ave. (corner of Broadway and Smith St.). Visitors always welcome. Information: P.O. Box 1425, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 2Z1.

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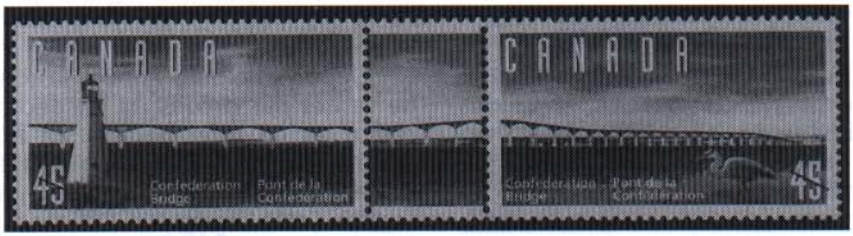

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ANNOUNCEMENT

THE RPSC SALES CIRCUIT

Over the past several years, The RPSC Sales Circuit has been in serious decline which has had its effects on the Society. The net annual expenditure to the Society and its members is in excess of $5,000.

It is difficult to justify this level of expenditure on a program which serves a small and decreasing percentage of the membership.

As a result of this decline, and as part of the ongoing review by the Board of Directors of all Society programs and services, the Board of Directors has decided to wind up the current Sales Circuit program, but at the same time to pursue replacement options.

In the meantime, no new Sales Circuit books will be accepted after Sept. 30, 1998,

Requests for circuits will be met until September, 1999, subjected to the availability of material. Books in circulation will be gradually withdrawn and settlement with owners made in due course.

Further information will appear in *The Canadian Philatelist* as events firm up.

Keith R. Spencer
President
National Office
P.O. Box 929, Station Q
Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1
CANADA
Tel: (416) 979-7474
Fax/TÈlcpr: (416) 979-1144
E-mail: rpsc@interlog.com

VENTES PAR CIRCUITS

Depuis quelques années le service de ventes par circuits est en déclin et ceci a eu un effet négatif sur notre Société. La perte nette annuelle à la Société et aux membres dépasse $5,000. Cette somme est difficile à justifier pour un programme qui sert un petit nombre, continuellement décroissant, de nos membres.

En réponse à ce déclin, et comme partie de la revue par le Conseil de direction de tous les programmes et services de la Société, les directeurs ont décidé de terminer le programme actuel de ventes par circuits et en-même temps de trouver des options pour son remplacement.

Entretemps, la Société n'acceptera pas de nouveaux carnets de vente, par circuits après le 30 septembre, 1998. Les demandes pour les circuits seront acceptés jusqu'en septembre 1999 selon la disponibilité du matériel. Les carnets en circulation seront rétirés graduellement et les dossiers financiers des propriétaires seront finalisés à ce temps.

Des renseignements supplémentaires apparaitront dans *Le philatéliste canadien* lorsque nous serons en mesure de le faire.

le Président
Keith R. Spencer
Bureau national
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EXCHANGES

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TOPICAL STAMPS on approval, sets and singles, S/S, covers and packets. State areas of interest. Nigel Pederick, 8015 Caribou Street, Mission, BC, V2V 5R1.

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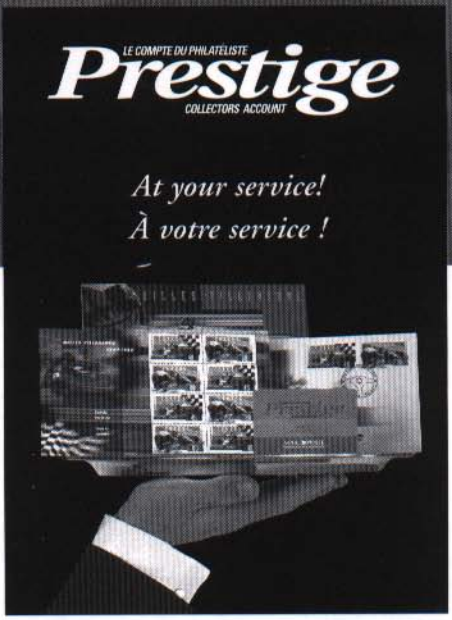

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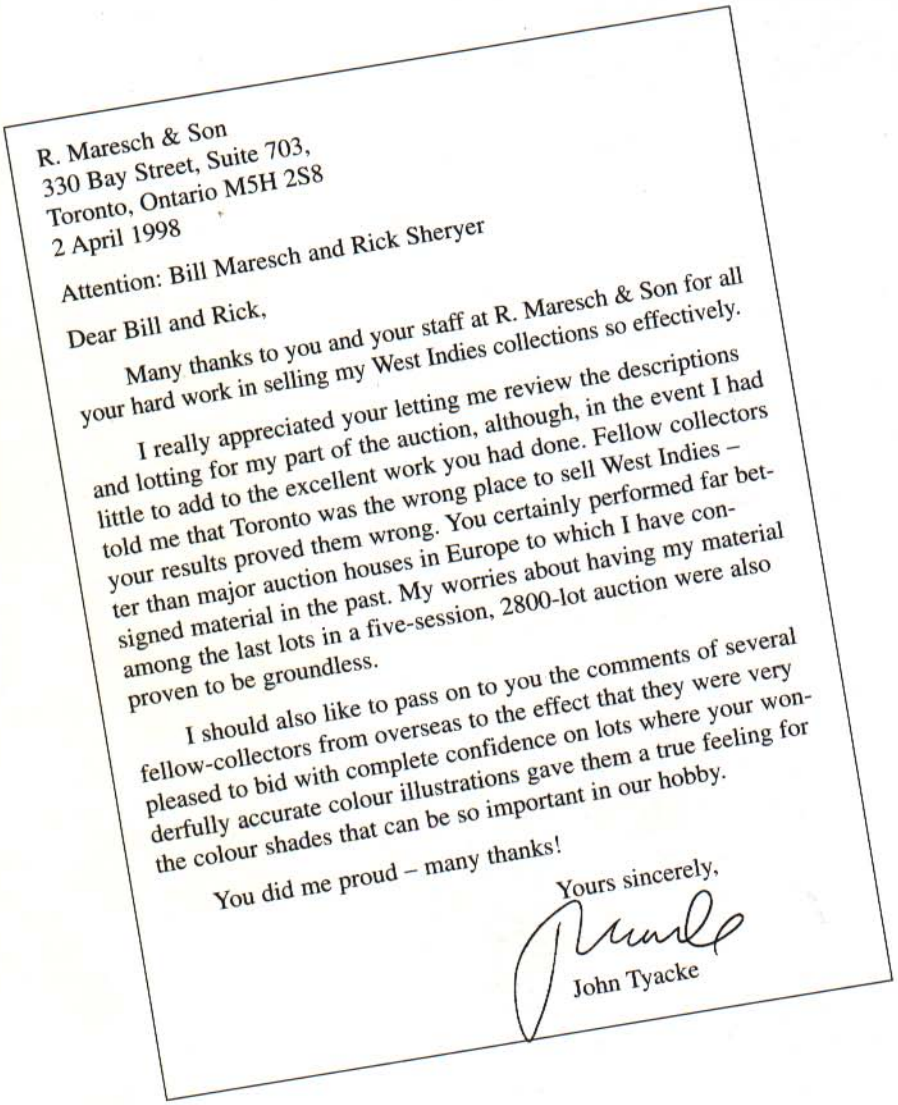

R. Maresch & Son
330 Bay Street, Suite 703,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2S8
2 April 1998

Attention: Bill Maresch and Rick Sheryer

Dear Bill and Rick,

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

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

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

You did me proud – many thanks!

Yours sincerely,

John Tyacke

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