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The Canadian Philatelist
Le philatéliste canadien

In this issue

- THE EARLY DAYS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
- NEWS FROM FREDERICTON AND ROYAL *1999* ROYALE
- LE COURRIER CATAPULTÉ

Journal of The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA Revue de La SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

VOL. 50 • NO. 4 JULY/AUGUST 1999 JUILLET-AOÛT

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The Canadian Philatelist
Le philatéliste canadien

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Cover:
April 1, 1999 marked a new beginning with the issue of a new stamp to commemorate the start of a new territory – Nunavut.
The Editor's challenge: Who will be the first to send in a list of all the post offices in the new territory along with examples of some of the post office cancels?

Couverture:
Le 1er avril 1999 marque un commencement avec l'émission d'un timbre pour souligner la création d'un nouveau territoire – Nunavut.
L'éditeur lance un défit: qui sera le premier à envoyer une liste de tous les bureaux de poste du nouveau territoire accompagnée de quelques exemples d'oblitérations?

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Editorial

by Bill Pekonen

The editorship of this magazine will be going through a transitional period as a result of a recent change. Your patience is requested while this new Editor gets his feet wet. J.J. Macdonald has been very helpful and has made the transition as easy as possible. Because of his excellent cooperation, the printing deadline was met with few problems. J.J. has accomplished admirable results during his term as Editor, and he is to be commended for his efforts.

With the help of readers and other writers, a new direction for this journal will be explored. The underlying policy is that this publication is the voice of the members. The title suggests that the contents are about collecting interests of Canadians – not exclusively about Canadian stamps. The topics can be worldwide in scope.

The role of the Editor is one of trying to achieve a balance of content. The usefulness of the publication will be a direct result of contributions received from members on a large variety of topics. Do you have a complaint? Write a letter to the Editor. Do you have new information? Write an article. Is the information missing something because you lack data sources? Write it anyway. Some other reader may have the key which will solve the problem.

Because our collections are formed by our personal interests, each collection is different from almost every other. Rarely would you find two identical collections – even on the same subject. The focus in future editions will be on topics which will interest general collectors. We will be looking for articles about 500 to 2,000 words in length – not long essays which run for pages and pages on obscure subjects which may interest only a few specialists. We also need a few feature articles with colour illustrations. Readers want more information on coming events that are of particular interest.

There is little point, however, in repeating information about a stamp that has already been published elsewhere. Instead, we will encourage publication of philatelically related articles which make collectors aware of new developments. *The Canadian Philatelist* can be on the leading edge of collecting – not looking back at what happened 100 years ago, written in different words than before. There are many things going on around the world which are immediately relevant.

We hope to provide information that is relevant to the collecting interests of today. Less emphasis will be given to older stamps and the classic issues. Those subjects have been beaten to death. There are other sources for that type of information. It might be useful to have articles giving specific references for previously published information to let readers know where they can find it. That is not to say, however, that new discoveries will be ignored. New, previously ignored information about the older stamps is useful and of value to philately.

But, it is time to break new ground and explore some of the exciting changes occuring right under our noses. In a fast moving world, a collector has to act fast or lose out. It is no longer possible to wait several years to find out what is happening. One must have the courage to use a crystal ball. For example, the post office is continually experimenting with more efficient mail handling methods. Some of those experiments are of the "here today – gone tomorrow" variety, producing interesting collecting examples. Readers need to know about these kinds of developments to save them for future comparison and study. Another example could be the peel-and-stick stamps now being used around the world. How many of these exist? How many have been saved on cover?

Many readers of this journal are collectors – not philatelists in the specialized sense of the word. But information and the sharing of knowledge is the only proven way to get the most out of this worldwide hobby. Collecting stamps in isolation is a self indulgence – not necessarily a hobby.

Access to the Internet has created a new door which never existed before. Anyone with access to a computer can now instantly communicate in ways never before possible. You do not even need a computer at home if you are close to a public library. Most public schools have computers – just think about the possibilities in that area to attract young collectors. This journal (and other publications), should not be competing with the Internet – nor should collectors expect the same type of information to be published in this journal.

The difference is that the hobby side of collecting promotes face-to-face, social interaction. This interaction helps to form lifelong friendships which transcend language, culture, nationality, sex and age. Furthermore, much of philately has been dominated by male collectors. That, too will change, as more female collectors become involved and contribute from a different perspective. That is the main reason for this organization – to provide a means by which people can meet and exchange ideas that are difficult to convey by e-mail or by computer.

A journal is a more permanent method for preserving information than the electronic filing cabinet. As time goes by, improvements in computers will make it difficult to retrieve previous information storage devices such as punch cards and 5-1/4" disks used on earlier computer models. It is easy to jump to the conclusion that 3.5 disks and CD disks will be in popular use in the year 2020.

But, who can tell for sure what will be used then? The printed word has been around for many centuries while electronic storage has existed for about 50 years. Even if data stored still exists when early computer versions were being used, how easy would it be to access it? My bet is on printed books, despite the appeal to use electronic imaging.

The purpose for this journal is to provide a balance in the information age. There is a difference to writing a well thought out article for publication in this journal and writing a spur of the moment response on Internet. The Internet is a good source for quick news, but much of the information is unconfirmed and unreliable.

Writer's guidelines will be prepared and published in a future issue of this journal. This guideline will help people who have never written articles before to contribute meaningful data. Writing is not that difficult if you remember a few basic rules. The article can be conversational in tone, using easy to understand words. The trick is to have something relevant to say or to write about.

Almost every collector falls into that category because most collections and topics are unique in one way or another. When writing, the depth of your own passion will often take over, and the results may often surprise you. So, don't allow writing inexperience to be an obstacle to contributing. You will often learn more about the subject from other collectors who may have access to different information you never realized even existed.

You would be surprised to know how many dedicated specialists are just as eager to learn about new collecting interests as those who are seeking new adventures. They have knowledge about matters which could help you to advance. It has been my experience that many of those who specialize in classic issues are the most interested in new developments – even if they have no intention of collecting that particular field. They are willing to share information which enhances knowledge and even to supply material that would otherwise have been impossible to find.

The temporary address for mailing articles is: Bill Pekonen, 201-7300 Moffat Road, Richmond, BC, V6Y 1X8; you can phone (604) 270-8726 or send a fax to (604) 270-8709. Other arrangements will be made for a post office box and for e-mail. Those contact points will be announced in the next edition.

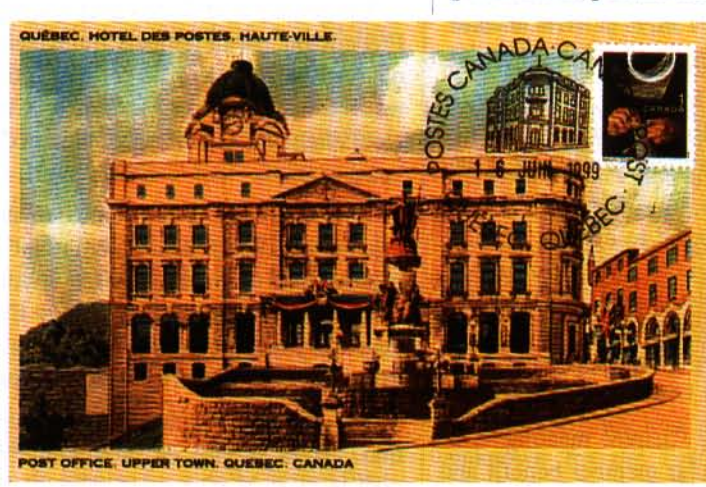
With your help, we can plow new ground and make this publication one that will be read from cover to cover by everyone. It will take a little time, but it can be done. Let's do it.

WISH YOU WERE HERE / LA PETITE REINE DES POSTES

Realized in 1997 by the Canadian Postal Museum, the exposition **Wish You Were Here** is presented this summer in Québec City.

The exhibition, which has welcomed more than 300,000 visitors in Hull features a hundred postcards, most dating from 1898-1904, pioneer years for picture postcards in Canada. Also featured are old albums of postcards, books on the subject, archives, documents, publications from collector's clubs and a rather eccentric personal notebook of a prolific postcard writer.

Let's write! Visitors can write and mail an already-stamped, personalized postcard in a replica of an old post office. The stamps will be cancelled by a special cancellation.



On the occasion of this exposition, we are offering a special postcard with a commemorative postmark. The card and the postmark illustrates the Old Main Post Office of Québec City and are available for $4 (taxes and postage paid), from: Grégoire Teyssier at 4081, rue des Cascades, Charny, QC, G6X 1G8.

This exposition is presented this summer in Québec City, 3, passage du Chien-d'Or at the Haute-Ville Postal Station (near the Château Frontenac) by Cap-aux-Diamants, The Canadian Postal Museum, Canada Post, Parks Canada and Le Club des cartophiles Québecois, until September 6, 1999. Admision is free.

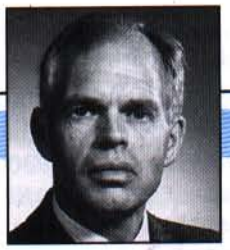
Réalisée en 1997 par le Musée canadien de la poste pour souligner le centenaire de la carte postale illustrée au Canada, l'exposition **La petite reine des postes, le centenaire de la carte postale illustrée au Canada** est présentée cet été à Québec.

L'exposition, qui a accueilli plus de 300,000 visiteurs à Hull, montre près d'une centaine de cartes postales, la plupart datant de la pértiode 1898 à 1904, époque pionnière de la carte postale illustrée au Canada. On y trouve également d'anciens albums de cartes postales, des documents d'archives, diverses publications portant sur le sujet, ainsi qu'un cahier de notes personnelles, pour le moins singulier, d'un correspondant plutôt prolifique.

A vos plumes! Les visiteurs pourront également rédiger et poster une carte postale personnalisée, dans un décor de bureau de poste centenaire. Ces cartes seront oblitérées d'un cachet spécial.

À l'occasion de cette exposition, une carte postale et un cachet d'oblitération spécial illustrant le vieux bureau de poste de Québec seront offerts au coût de $4 (taxes et frais de port inclus). Pour commander ces souvenirs philatéliques, écrivez à: Grégoire Teyssier, 4081, rue des Cascades, Charny, QC, G6X 1G8.

L'exposition **La petite reine des postes** est présentée à Québec au 3, passage du Chien-d'Or (Ancien bureau de poste central de Québec) par la revue Cap-aux-Diamants, le Musée canadien de la poste, la Société canadienne des postes, Parcs Canada et le Club des cartophiles Québécois, jusqu'au 6 septembre 1999. L'entrée est gratuite.



President's Page / La page du président

by/par Keith Spencer

I write these notes having just returned from our Fredericton annual meeting. I never did find this Fred fellow, but had a most marvelous time looking, renewing acquaintances, and meeting new friends. I have often felt that our wonderful hobby is as much about collecting people as it is about filling album spaces, and after Fredericton, I am quite confirmed in this opinion.

At each of the Conventions I have attended, the phrase "best ever" has come to mind. Fredericton was no exception – Atlantic hospitality is less of a well kept secret than it was before the show. Thanks and congratulations to the organizing committee which seems to have consisted of every single member – and spouse – of the Fredericton and District Stamp Club. We have proof perfect that a "small" chapter can stage a "big" show and other prospective chapter hosts should take note.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the opportunity to recognize retiring directors Dr. J.J. Macdonald and David Oberholtzer, and to welcome newly elected Elizabeth Sodero of Halifax and Ted Nixon of Toronto. David served the Society as Treasurer and we will miss his expertise. "J.J" leaves large shoes to fill. As Editor of *The Canadian Philatelist*. he was in good part responsible for the successful transformation of our magazine. We welcome Bill Pekonen from Vancouver as our new Editor and look forward to his enthusiastic contribution to the Society.

A number of our Past Presidents were present in Fredericton and two, Jim Kraemer and Michael Madesker, received certificates commemorating 50 years of Royal membership. Fifty years! What a milestone! Congratulations, gentlemen – and thanks for your continued sage advice and support.

Dwayne Miner, who has been selected to operate an independent Sales Circuit program as a benefit to Royal members only, was at Fredericton with a supply of sales booklets and brochures. This membership benefit has always been a popular one for our members and chapters. Contact Dwayne now and get on board!

Need a program for an upcoming Chapter meeting? Our slide program service is another popular member benefit and has been operated for the last several years by Kimmo Salonen. Kimmo currently finds himself busy with several other projects and we are looking for a replacement operator. If you would like to contribute to your Society in this way, drop me a line and I will send on the details.

In the meantime, fired up by our Fredericton experience, we are making Winnipeg travel plans and look forward to seeing you there next April.

Je vous écris, alors que je reviens de notre assemblée annuelle de Fredericton. Je n'ai jamais eu l'occasion de rencontrer ce Fred en question, mais ce congrès fut un véritable plaisir pour les yeux et aussi un endroit où j'ai pu renouer des contacts et établir de nouvelles relations. J'ai toujours pensé que notre merveilleux passe-temps était autant réservé aux rencontres qu'aux albums de timbres et après Fredericton, je confirme cette opinion.

Les congrès précédents ont tous été meilleurs les uns que les autres. Fredericton ne fait pas exception à la règle. De plus, l'hospitalité qui caractérise la région atlantique n'est plus un secret pour personne. Merci et bravo au comité d'organisation qui semblait regrouper chacun des membres (et conjoints) du club philatélique de Fredericton et de son district. Nous avons maintenant la preuve vivante qu'un "petit" club peut faire un "grand" congrès; avis aux organisateurs à venir!

L'un des grands moments du congrès fut l'hommage rendu aux directeurs sortants le Dr. J.J. Macdonald et David Oberholtzer, et l'accueil aux nouveaux directeurs élus Elizabeth Sodero d'Halifax et Ted Nixon de Toronto. David a été trésorier de la Société et ses qualités d'expert nous manqueront. "J.J." laissera un grand vide derrière lui. En tant qu'éditeur du philatéliste canadien, il est en grande partie responsable de la transformation de notre magazine qui fut un succès. Bill Pekonen de Vancouver sera notre nouvel éditeur et nous sommes heureux de sa contribution enthousiaste à la Société.

Un bon nombre de nos anciens présidents étaient présents à Fredericton, parmi lesquels Jim Kraemer et Michael Madesker, qui ont reçu tous deux un certificat commémorant le cinquantenaire de leur adhésion à la Société. Cinquante ans! Un demisiècle! Félicitations messieurs, et merci de vos sages conseils et de votre soutien.

Dwayne Miner, à qui l'on a demandé de mettre en place un programme indépendant de circuit des ventes uniquement réservé aux membres, était à Fredericton avec une bonne réserve de brochures sur les ventes. Ce programme est un avantage très populaire pour les membres. Contactez donc Dwayne dès maintenant et entrez dans la course!

Besoin d'un programme pour une prochaine réunion de section? Notre service de programme de diapositives constitue pour les membres un autre avantage intéressant, qui a été géré au cours des dernières années par Kimmo Salonen. Kimmo est actuellement très pris par plusieurs autres projets et nous recherchons quelqu'un pour le remplacer. Si vous désirez contribuer aux activités de notre Société de cette manière, écrivez-moi et je vous enverrai tous les détails requis.

Forts de notre expérience à Fredericton, nous commençons à préparer notre voyage à Winnipeg et espérons vous y voir très nombreux en avril prochain.

Falkland Islands Philately: The Earliest Days

by Major R.N. Spafford, FRPSL

Fig. 1: Earliest recorded letter to Falkland Islands: Letter from England to the Rev. John Furniss Ogle backstamped on 8 Sept. 1856 inscribed 'received Dec 11th by the AG' was carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. ship *Avon* which sailed from Southampton on 9 Sept. 1856. It arrived in Montevideo 20 Oct. The letter was then transhipped to mission schooner *Allen Gardiner* which arrived at Port Stanley on 11 Dec. 1856. The mission to convert Patagonian Indians to Christianity was set up on Kepple Island, Falkland Islands in 1854. Mr. Ogle joined the Mission arriving in the Falklands on Sept. 1856. The Patagonian mission later became South American Missionary Society.

Following the earliest permanent settlement of the Falkland Islands in 1833, all communication with the Islands including carriage of the mails was by the Royal Navy, normally through the British South American station based at Montevideo.

However, the Admiral in command there often had priorities other than to send a warship to the Falkland Islands with mail. By 1850 with a resident population, though small, growing rapidly in number, the situation in the Islands was becoming increasingly unsatisfactory.

In September 1850, Governor Rennie wrote to the Secretary of State at the Colonial Office in London, Earl Grey, that no ship either civil or military had arrived from Montevideo since *HMS Daedelus* had called in February of that year asking for a small vessel for mail and stores to be provided for the Colony's use. In June 1851, he wrote again to Earl Grey about the lack of communication with Montevideo, complaining that Earl Grey's dispatches of June and July of the previous year had only just arrived in the Falklands the previous day. It arrived on a boat owned by Mr. Lafone, which had been shuffling apparently between Montevideo, Rio Negro, Valparaiso and Rio de Janeiro for months before finally arriving at the Falklands.

Improvement came with the establishment of the Falkland Islands Company and the commencement of a regular mail service between Stanley and Montevideo using the Company's schooner, *Amelia*, in July 1852.

Postage Rates

In June 1852, the postage rate from Great Britain to the Falklands was set at 1s. per half ounce and it is thought that this was a combination of an 8d. rate to Montevideo, payable in Britain and a further charge of 4d. which was authorized between Montevideo and the Falklands, which could be collected in Montevideo for that part of the route (Fig. 1).

From June 1858 the postage rate between Great Britain and the Falklands was reduced to 6d. per half ounce (Fig. 2). Although mail from England had to be pre-paid, mail from the Falklands to Great Britain still had to be sent unpaid.

Prepayment of mail from the Falklands was introduced in August 1861, but how this was indicated on letters is, as yet, unknown for the first Falklands "paid" mark. The first Falklands postmarks were not introduced until at the earliest 1868 and possibly not until January 1869.

The Requisition for the First Postmarks

A letter by H. (Henry) Byng, Acting Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands, dated March 11th, 1868, to The Crown Agents for the Colonies requisitioned the first Falklands postal markings: these were the small square "Paid" mark, now known as the "Black Frank", the first Falkland Islands circular date stamp, the Crown Registered mark and the

"Deficient Postage" mark. The text of the letter is quite short:

"Gentlemen, I am directed by H.E. the Governor to request that you will cause me to be supplied with the Post Office Stamps specified in the enclosure. Also with an Endorsement Box fitted with a Black Post Office Pad, Oil, Cork and Brush complete."

Included on the right margin are hand drawn examples of what was required (Fig. 3).

The Black Frank

The earliest known cover bearing the "Black Frank" also includes the first known use of the Crown Registered mark and the first Falkland Islands circular date stamp, dated JA 4 1869. The cover, addressed to the Manager of the London & Westminster Bank, 1 St. James Square, London S.W. also bears the initials "W.R." of the Governor, Sir William F.C. Robinson. Is it, perhaps, the earliest Falklands First Day Cover (Fig. 4)?

Forty-two covers, bearing the Black Frank, which was used over a period of seven years are known to have survived.

The Red Frank

In November 1875 George Travis, the Falkland Islands Postmaster, wrote to John Tilly Esq., at the General Post Office London that the addressees of mail from the Falkland Islands, handstamped with the "Black Frank" were often charged postage due on receipt (Fig. 3). The paid mark was not only small and sometimes badly impressed but, of course, black was the accepted colour denoting unpaid, whereas paid marks were conventionally in red ink. This resulted in the "Black Frank" being replaced by the larger circular "Red Frank" of which some 22 examples have been recorded as existing in use between 1876 and 1878 (Fig. 5).

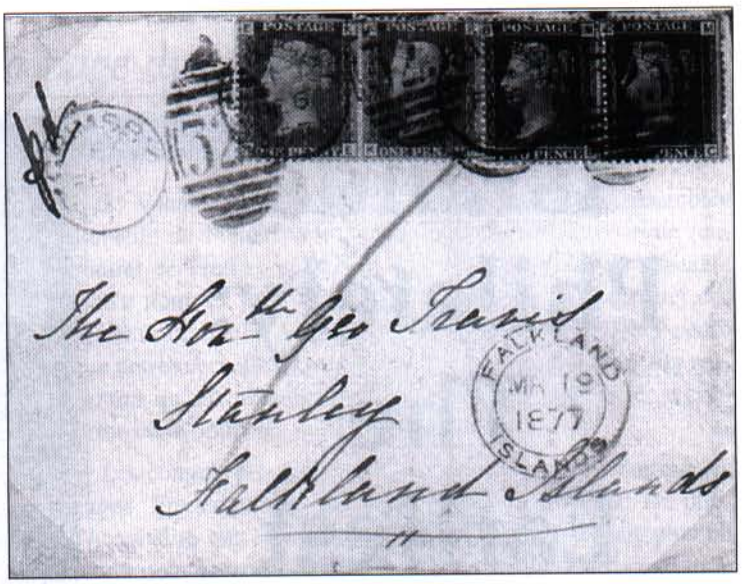


Fig. 2: Travis Correspondence: Letter from England to the Hon. George Travis postmarked 6 Feb 1877 at Grimsby with a Falkland Islands arrival datestamp Andrews 6A of 19 March 1877 was carried by Royal Mail Steam Packet *Elbe* which sailed from Southampton 9 Feb. and arrived Montevideo 8 March. The letter was then transhipped to Falkland Islands schooner *Black Hawk* which arrived Port Stanley 19 March 1877. George Travis (1844-1912) as Colonial Postmaster from 1873 to 1878 was instrumental in introducing the Red Frank in 1876. He was Colonial Treasurer from 1874 to 1878 and as a member of council was correctly entitled as the Honourable George Travis.

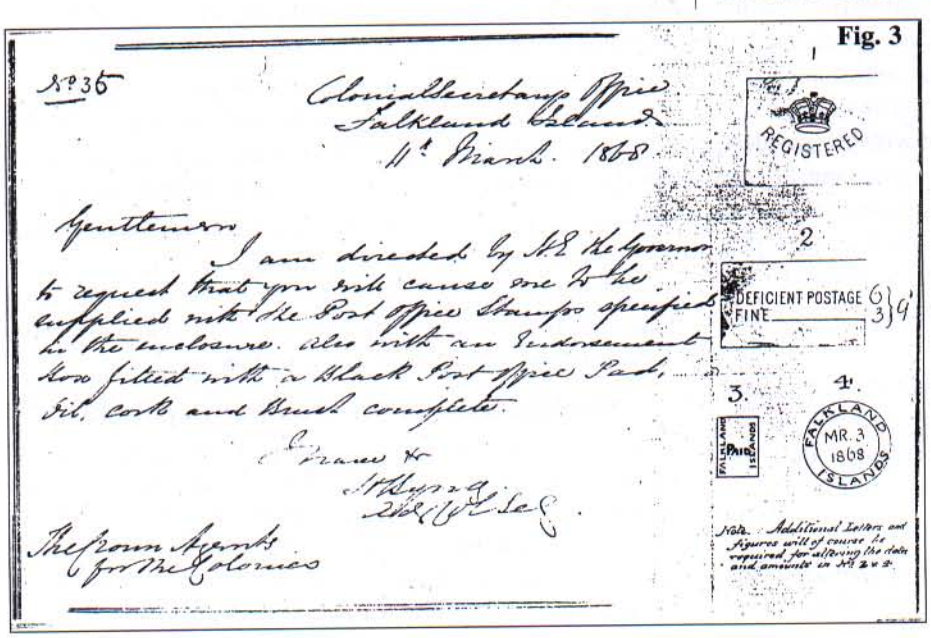
Attempts to Join the General Postal Union

On October 16th, 1877, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Secretary of State at the Colonial Office, wrote from Downing Street, London, to T.F. Callaghan Esq. CMG, Governor of the Falkland Islands (1876-80) telling him that application had been made for the Falkland Islands to be made a member of the General Postal Union (renamed the Universal Postal Union in 1879) on January 1st, 1878.

Opposition, however, came from an unexpected quarter and the Earl of Carnarvon wrote again to the Governor:

Downing Street
8th November, 1877
"Sir,

"With reference to me circular Despatch of 16th ultimo, informing you of the proposal to admit the Falkland Islands into the General Postal Union from the 1st January next, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter which has now been received from the General Post Office stating that the Russian Post Office has objected to the admission of the Colony unless the several Colonies recently admitted were considered as subordinate to the Postal Administration of Great Britain; and further that as postage stamps are not in use in the Colony this would appear to



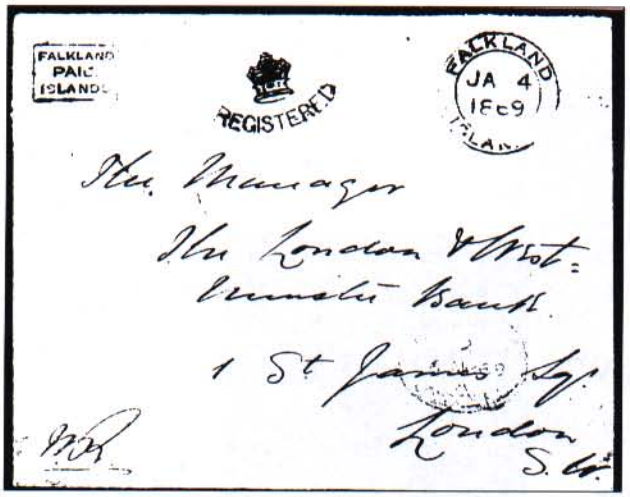


Fig. 4: First recorded "Black Frank" cover.

be a fatal bar to its admission under the Postal Union Treaty even if the Russian Post Office should withdraw its objections.

"In these circumstances the admission of the Falkland Islands into the General Postal Union must be postponed for a time.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble servant, Carnarvon"

This letter was accompanied by a letter marked "immediate" from the General Post Office to R.G.W. Herbert Esq., the Colonial Office, dated at London on November 7, 1877:

"Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 10th ultimo (No 432C) on the subject of the application made for the admission into the Postal Union of the West African Colonies and the Falkland Islands, I am directed by the Postmaster General to request you will write to the Earl of Carnarvon that after that letter was written, the Swiss Post Office informed this Department that the Director General of the Russian Post Office had declared that he could only consent to the admission of these Colonies into the Union, on the condition that the several Colonies recently admitted were considered as subordinate to the Post Administration of Great Britain.

"No time was lost in pointing out to the Swiss Post Office the unreasonable character of the condition sought to be imposed by the Russian Post Office and Lord John Manners had hoped that before this he might have heard that the Director General at St. Petersburg had withdrawn his objection, but no further communication on the subject has reached this office from Berne.

"Meanwhile it has just been discovered that postage stamps are not in use in the Falkland Islands, and as the Postal Administrations of the Union attach great importance to the Article in the Postal Union Treaty which stipulates that payment of postage can be effected only by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin, it appears to Lord John Manners that the absence of postage stamps in the Colony would be fatal bar to its admission into the Union, seeing that the Countries of the Union would doubtless refuse to recognize as paid, letters from the Falkland Islands not bearing postage stamps, and would charge them as wholly unpaid.

"Under these circumstances, His Lordship is of the opinion that the entry of this Colony into the Postal Union must be postponed for a time, even if the Russian Post Office should withdraw its objection.

"As the Falkland Islands were to have been admitted into the Union on 1st January 1878 supposing that no objections had been raised, I am to request that you will move the Earl of Carnarvon to cause the Governor of the Colony to be informed by the mail of tomorrow evening of the unexpected difficulty which has arisen.

I am etc.
Wm. Jas. Page"

The First Postage Stamps

Mr. Herbert of the Colonial Office, London did not waste time for the following memorandum dated December 3, 1877, is recorded in London, almost certainly written by the Crown Agents:

"Mr. Herbert,

For a cheap stamp such as we are getting made for the Transvaal which would be quite good enough for the Falklands – the cost would not be great say Die and Plate for two values 1d. and 6d about £10 – cost of printing, paper, etc., 1/- per 1,000 stamps."

Mr. Herbert's fast reaction had probably been sparked by the Falkland Islands Company as Despatch No. 22

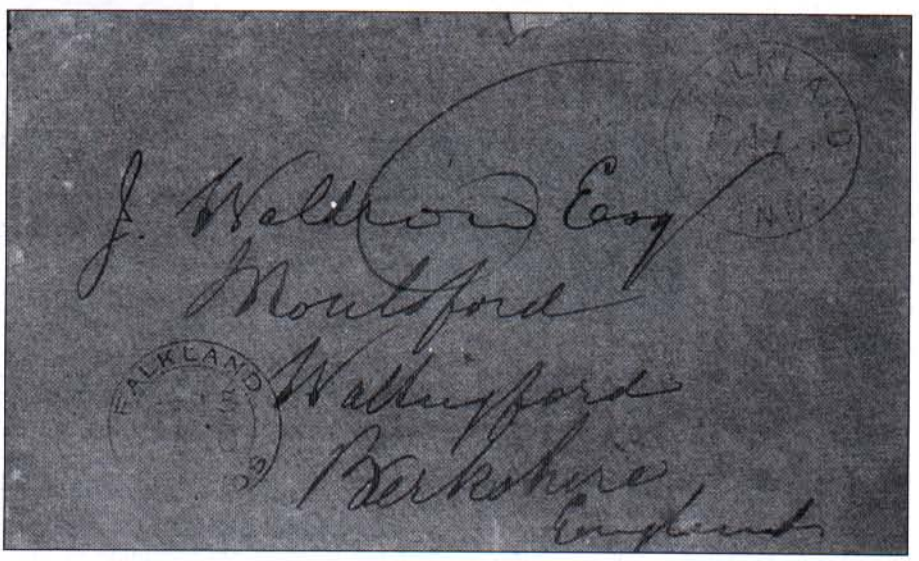


Figure 5: Handstruck Paid Stamps – the Red Frank: Cover prepaid 6d with Falkland Islands Red Frank date stamped with Andrews Type 6A of 15 Feb. 1878. It was backstamped arriving in Wallingford on 2 Apr. and travelled on Falkland Islands Company Mail Schooner *Sparrow Hawk* which left Port Stanley on 15 Feb. bound for Montevideo transhipped to Royal Mail Steam Packet ship *Mondego* which departed Montevideo 3 March and arrived in Southampton on 1 April 1878.

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from Downing Street, dated 6 December, 1877 to the Falkland Islands indicates:

"To Governor Callaghan CMG,
Sir,

I have the honor (sic) to inform you that having received representations from the Falkland Islands Company on the subject of providing the Colony with a distinctive postage stamp and having been advised by Lord John Manners of its desirability, I have directed the Crown Agents to take immediate steps for procuring the materials necessary for providing your government with stamps of two denominations viz 1d. & 6d. in value.

"I presume that 2 kinds will be sufficient to meet the present requirement of the Colony.

I have the honour to be Sir
Your most obedient humble servant
Carnarvon".

Governor Callaghan replied on 14th February, 1878:

"My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch No. 22 of 6th December last regarding the desirability of providing this Colony with a distinctive Postage Stamp. I am glad that the proposal has received your Lordship's approval.

"The Postmaster informs me that the stamps which would be required here would be 1d., 6d., 1/- and 5/-.

"Packets are sent occasionally by the Falkland Islands Company and Messrs. Dean weighing about 30 oz. for which a small supply of 5/- would be convenient.

"The 6d. stamp would be the most in use and next to that the 1/- stamp. The 1d. stamp would not be used except on Foreign Letters of which very few are forwarded from the Colony.

"Letters are not forwarded by the Government to the various parts of the Islands and there is no local postage charge.

I have, etc.
signed
T. F. Callaghan
The Right Honourable
The Earl of Carnarvon
The Colonial Office"

Fig. 6: The Transvaal stamps.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, of the Colonial Office in London, replied to Governor Callaghan:

"Falkland Islands
Downing Street No. 10
25 April,1878
Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 11 of 14th of February relating to the provision of distinctive Postage Stamps for the Falkland Islands.

"In addition to the penny and sixpence stamps the Crown Agents have been instructed to procure one shilling stamps but I have not thought it necessary to authorize the issue of the five shilling class.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient humble servant
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach MP"

It seems that the Crown Agents had already placed the order for the ld. and 6d. stamps on December 3rd, 1877, without waiting for correspondence between the Earl of Carnarvon and Governor Callaghan. They placed the order with Bradbury Wilkinson, a firm which had already produced revenue stamps for Griqualand West and were in the middle of producing postage stamps for the Transvaal, using the same head of Queen Victoria, engraved by Herbert Bourne (Fig. 6).

The same Herbert Bourne head of the Queen was used on the Falkland Islands stamps and 20,000 of the 1d. and 6d. value were delivered by the printers on 5th February, 1878. They were conveyed to the Falkland Islands in the ship *Guardiane*, which sailed from England on 8th February.

The Falkland Issue then became the first postage stamps printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, a matter of great pride to the firm in later years.

The two stamps, 1d. and 6d., were issued on or about June 19th, 1878, and the $1- stamp was issued on arrival later in the autumn of the same year.

Admission to the General Postal Union

Following the issue of these stamps for the Colony, the Falkland Islands were successfully admitted as a member of the General Postal Union. This was officially announced by Notice No. 39 of the General Post Office dated December 16th, 1878, and admission was for the Falkland Islands, the British Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, British Honduras and Newfoundland to be effective on January 1st, 1879.

No sooner, however, had the Falklands joined the GPU than the union announced in January that postage rates would be reduced from April 1st that year.

Governor Callaghan wrote to The Right Honourable Sir M. E. Hicks-Beach Bart. M.P., The Colonial Office:

"G.H.S.F. I
24th March 1879
Sir,

With reference to your Circular of 25th January 1879 notifying certain changes which will take place on 1st April next in the rates of postage and conditions of transmission of correspondence between countries included in the General Postal Union, I have the honour to inform you that these will render necessary the issue of a Four-penny stamp for the use of the Colony.

"I shall therefore be obliged by your authorizing the Crown Agents to take the necessary steps to procure a supply of these stamps.

I have, etc.
T.F. Callaghan"

The new 4d. stamps in grey-black were sent down to the Colony on 29th July, 1879 and put on sale in September that year.

These four stamps 1d. claret, 4d. grey-black, 6d. blue-green and 1/- bistre-brown then are combined to form the first issue of Falklands' stamps in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue (Figs. 7 & 8).

References:

The following three files held in the Government Archives in Stanley, Falkland Islands:
Dispatches Out, Vol B7, No.38/1850, No.27/1851
Falkland Islands Gazettes, Vol E4, Public Notice No.19/1858
Misc. Letters Out, Vol D13, No.35/1868
Misc. Letters Out, Vol D17, No.387/1875
The First Falkland Islands Stamps, by Major R.N. Spafford, published in *Stamps*, June 1983.
Falkland Islands: Newly Uncovered Information on the First Postmarks, by Major R.N. Spafford FRPSL, published in *The London Philatelist*, Vol. 104, June 1995.

Fig. 8: Cover date stamped at Port Stanley with Andrews type 6A of 21 April 1888 and backstamped on arrival in London on 30 May 1888 was carried on steamer Theben which left Port Stanley on 24 April 1888.

Fig. 7: 1878-1879 Queen Victoria Defintive Issue

claret

grey-black

blue-green

bistre-brown

Ronald Norman Spafford, FRPSL

Since retiring from Her Majesty's service in the Royal Artillery, Major Ronald Spafford has worked as a writer, combining his love for philately with his love for the written word. His first volume, *The 1933 Centenary Issue of the Falkland Islands*, was published in 1972. He also works part-time as a tour operator, a business he began in 1988.

Major Spafford was born in Clifton, Bristol, UK on July 29, 1928, the son of the late Albert Miles Gwynne Spafford and Edith (nee) Montgomery. After an education at Sherborne School in Dorset, he began his military education at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst. His active duty began after commissioning in December of 1948. He later continued military studies with a Long Gunnery Staff course at the Royal School of Artillery in Larkhill, where he became an Instructor in Gunnery in 1960.

Before his official retirement from the Army in 1974, Major Spafford began working as editor of *The Upland Goose*, the journal of the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study

Group, which he had helped found in 1970. He was to serve as research coordinator for the Group, as well, from 1970 until 1982, with additional service on various committees through the years.

In 1983, after the publication of the book *Falkland Islands Digest No. 2*, Major Spafford was named editor of the *Falkland Islands Newsletter*, the social/political journal of the Falkland Island Association. He now also serves as Vice President of the Falkland Islands Association, having previously held the offices of Vice Chair during 1988-89 and Chairman from 1989 to 1992. He continues to serve as a trustee for Falklands Conservation and as a member (and former Chairman) of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee.

Combining his love for the Falkland Islands with his interest in philately, Major Spafford organized the first exhibition of stamps ever held in the Falkland Islands as part of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations held in 1983. He also founded the Philatelic Writers Society, a national society in the UK for philatelic writers. He is a life member of the American Philatelic Society and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society.

In recognition of his work in the area of philatelic writing, Major Spafford was presented a Silver Medal by the American Philatelic Society's Writer's Unit in 1979. He has also received four Large Vermeil Medals, presented in Chicago in 1986, India in 1989, Auckland in 1990 and Tokyo in 1991; seven Vermeil Medals, presented in Paris and Brussels in 1982, Melbourne in 1984, Toronto in 1987, Helsinki in 1988, Paris in 1989 and London in 1990; and six Silver Medals, presented in Philadelphia in 1976, Prague and Toronto in 1978, Boston in 1979, Tokyo in 1981 and Bangkok in 1983. He was further honoured with the establishment of the "Ronnie Spafford Award," to be given annually for the best philatelic book published (excluding Postal History).

Major Spafford won a Gold Medal and the Stanley Gibbons Award at Benoni '94 in South Africa, a Gold Medal and Grand Award for Best in Show at Milcopex, Milwaukee in 1995, a Gold Medal at Capex '96 and a Gold Medal Prix d'Honneur at Stampshow '96 at Orlando, Florida.

Apart from his professional responsibilities, Major Spafford holds membership in the European-Atlantic Group. He was named a life member of the Field Survey Association in 1962, and he has been a Governor for the *S.S. Great Britain* Project since 1987. His philosophy is to live every moment of his life to the fullest, thus having a better chance at achieving the impossible. As a result, he enjoys such leisure time activities as hiking, sailing, world travel, photography (especially underwater photography), exploring the coral reefs, swimming, horseback riding, painting and collecting and experiencing top class Bordeaux wine. His many experiences led him to be named, in 1979, as consultant to the BBC Television series *In the Post*, the first philatelic series broadcast in Britain.

He also operates tours to St. Helena and the Falkland Islands on a regular basis.

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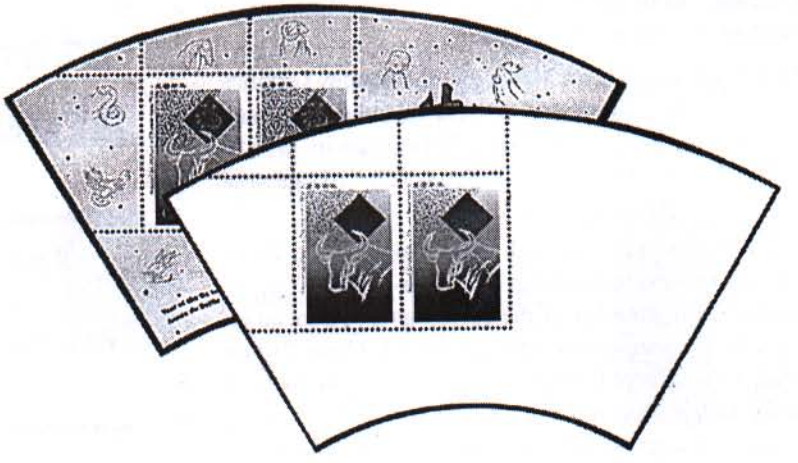

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by Hans Reich

DON'T GET BURNED

Once again a major collection was lost due to fire. The premises were located in Ottawa above two fast food restaurants. Any such locations are high risk areas. Anyone near such places should be aware of the risks and take special precautions. Avoid keeping stamps in such places.

Have an inventory on a CD for record and insurance. Have an insurance that covers replacement value. A two hour fire safe may help, but heat could be a problem. Bank Safety Deposit boxes are best, but are of course awkward if one wants to look at a collection frequently. Stamp insurance is available through many philatelic societies and worth any penny spent.

100 YEARS GERMANIA

At the end of this Millennium it will be exactly 100 years that the first stamps were issued in Germany showing the so-called Germania figure. For this event a special book has been prepared that commemorates this event. It is called *100 Years Germania*.

The book, with 350 pages, will contain a catalogue with prices, colour illustrations, the production process, the special margins with their inscriptions, cancels used, specialized information such as shades etc., and the official forms and the postage rates. The price is to be DM 148. It is likely most dealers will have copies available.

Admiral Precancel Lathework

Some of the following material can now be reported that has come on the market or is in various collections.

Lathework of precanceled stamps have a special attraction in that they may identify from which plate the particular precancel came from. Although some information is available on precanceled Admiral plates, this is still very limited.

Bridgeburg	1-105-E	LW DI
Bridgeburg	1-105	LW D
Brantford	3-105	LW D
Brockville	3-104	LW B
Brockville	3-105-D	LW B
Calgary	1-110	LW D
Calgary	1-110	LW DI
Carleton Place	1-104	LW B
Edmonton	1-117-I	LW D
Estevan	1-105	LW B
Estevan	1-104-I	LWB
Halifax	2-110	LW D
Halifax	2-117	LW D
Hamilton	1-114-I	LW D
Hamilton	3-104	LW B
Kitchener	1-104	LW C
Kitchener	1-105	LW D
Kitchener	1-105	LW C
Kitchener	1-107	LW D
Lindsay	1-104	LW B
London	1-104	LW C
London	1-110	LW D
Moncton	1-104-I	LW B
Montreal	7-105	LW D
Niagara F.	3-113-I	LW B
Niagara F.	3-119	LW D
Niagara F.	3-112	LW D
Niagara F.	3-110	LW D
Niagara F.	3-113	LW B
Peterborough	1-105	LW D
Peterborough	1-107	LW D
Regina	2-113-I	LW B
Toronto	10-104	LW DI
Toronto	10-118	LW D
Toronto	10-119	LW D
Toronto	11-105	LW D
Toronto	12-112	LW D
Toronto	12-109	LW D
St. John	3-104	LW B
St. Thomas	1-105	LW C
Victoria	1-109	LW D
Vancouver	2-119	LW D
Vancouver	2-104	LW B
Winnipeg	1-105	LW D
Winnipeg	4-105	LW C
Woodstock	1-104	LW B

The 3 Cents Admiral Coil

A recent listing indicated that a three-cent Admiral, perforated eight vertically has been found in the rose carmine shade. It is claimed that this shade has not been listed in a catalogue. Marler originally believed that only two plates had been used for the coils, but found that two additional plates were used, Plates 9 and 10.

These early plates coincide with the early plates of the regular three-cent carmine sheet stamps. The early regular sheet stamps can be found in the rose carmine shade and it is this printing period that produced also the coil stamps.

It is therefore not surprising that the early coil stamps can be found in the rose carmine shade. Mint copies are not common, but used copies exist. Agreed this shade should be listed the same as it is for the regular issue.

BOOK REVIEW

Unitrade have made an excellent job of revising the *Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue*. Extensive information was submitted to them by the editors. These included large price changes, some down, many up. The large number of typo errors have been corrected and a good number of new additions and changes have been made. The reference to *Canada Specialized* has been eliminated because this catalogue does not exist.

Walburn, with his extensive knowledge of prices, was responsible for price changes and these now reflect the latest in accordance with the many recent auction realizations. The sequence of listing has been re-arranged slightly to be more logical. It is interesting that many of the very expensive stamps listed still in the catalogue have not been seen for years. The question remains, do they still exist? Marasco is trying to put a listing together from all known collections to try to determine what does exist and what does not.

The new part of this catalogue is the overprinting varieties. Formerly a separate catalogue, these are now included and priced for the first time. This part will encourage collectors to look out for such varieties and report them. Allan I. Magee greatly assisted in proof reading and adding a number of comments.

par Grégoire Teyssier

Une idée française

En 1927, la Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, dirigée par John Dal Piaz, commence à s'intéresser à une méthode originale de transport sur l'Atlantique Nord, afin de réduire le temps de traversée du courrier. Cette société créa donc, en 1928, une filiale, la Société Transatlantique Aérienne (STA), présidée par Pierre Olpho-Gaillard et dirigée par René Fould.

À cette époque, le temps de traversée d'un paquebot entre Le Havre et New York était d'environ 5-1/2 jours. La STA eut donc comme mission de développer un nouveau système afin de réduire ce délai, en espérant ainsi distancer la concurrence des autres compagnies.

L'idée était simple, encore fallait-il y penser et la réaliser. Elle consistait à équiper les paquebots d'un petit hydravion qui serait catapulté du pont lorsque le bateau arriverait à 600 ou 700 kilomètres des côtes. On espérait ainsi un gain de temps de 24 heures sur l'acheminement du courrier. Dans le Bulletin mensuel des postes, en date du 4 août 1928, on peut lire:

"À partir de son prochain voyage, fixé au 8 août (voyage reporté au 13 août) (départ du Havre), le paquebot Île-de-France de la ligne Le Havre-New-York aura à bord un avion qui quittera le navire de façon à réaliser dans chaque sens un gain de 24 heures sur la durée du parcours maritime restant à effectuer. La liaison aérienne ainsi établie s'effectuera entre le paquebot et New-York à l'aller et entre le paquebot et Le Bourget aéroport au retour. Elle sera utilisée exclusivement:

Dans le sens France-Amérique, pour le transport des correspondances originaires de France ou recueillies à bord du paquebot

Dans le sens Amérique-France, pour le transport des correspondances recueillies à bord du paquebot. Dans les deux sens, l'arrivée sera réglée pour que le courrier transporté par cet avion puisse profiter de la première distribution du matin, tant à Paris qu'à New-York".

Une première tentative de catapultage fut donc effectuée le 13 août 1928, avec l'avion amphibie LeO H198 No 1 F-AIQP, un monomoteur de 420 ch, pouvant recevoir six passagers en cabine et offrant une autonomie de 770 kilomètres. Pour l'occasion, une catapulte Penhoët fut installée sur le pont arrière du paquebot Île-de-France. L'avion fut donc catapulté le 13 août 1928 à 13 heures, et gagna sur lui une vingtaine d'heures en amerrissant à Manhattan à 17h13. Lors du voyage de retour, l'opération fut répétée, et l'hydravion prit l'air le 23 août à 7 heures, alors que le bateau se trouvait à 400 km des Îles Scilly. Il amerrit à Cherbourg à 11h30.

Le 3 septembre, lors de son second voyage aller, à nouveau en route pour New-York, l'équipage de Demougeot se posa à Halifax puis à Boston. Le courrier de l'Île-de-France à destination du Canada gagna ainsi 52 heures et celui pour les États-Unis, 46 heures. Les lettres acheminées par poste ferroviaire de Boston à New-York arrivèrent avec 36 heures d'avance sur le bateau. Le pari était gagné!

Cependant, un accident survînt le 13 septembre 1928. Lors de son quatrième voyage, l'hydravion F-AIQP, subit une panne 40 minutes après son catapultage, et dû amerrir au large de l'Irlande dans une mer très agitée. L'épave de l'avion fut ensuite remorquée jusqu'au port de Camaret, près de Brest.

Timbre-à-date du paquebot Île-de-France, sur carte de souhaits de la Compagnie générale transatlantique. Coll. de l'auteur

Le paquebot Île-de-France n'a jamais été "timbrifié". Par contre, les recherches de Denis Masse, on permis de le retracer sur le timbre canadien de livraison par exprès, émis en 1927!

Malgré cet accident, les liaisons bateau-avion catapulté continuèrent en 1929 avec deux autres types d'hydravions. Entre les mois d'août et septembre 1929, huit catapultages furent effectués depuis l'Île-de-France. Le gouvernement français accorda alors une subvention d'un million de francs à la STA. Malgré ces succès, la quantité de courrier ainsi délivrée était très faible: en moyenne, 25 kilos par voyage. La surtaxe de 10 francs perçue sur chaque lettre expliquant sans doute le désintérêt des utilisateurs.

En raison de la trop faible rentabilité du système, la STA arrêta ses liaisons mixtes en septembre 1930, après avoir effectué, entre 1928 et 1930, 18 vols catapultés. Entretemps, l'avionnerie s'était suffisamment développée pour entrevoir la possibilité d'effectuer des liaisons transatlantiques tout-par-avion et ce, grâce à des bateaux ravitailleurs.

Lettre simple à destination de West Newton (Mass.) postée à bord de l'Île-de-France, le 3 octobre 1929 lors de son troisième voyage de retour de l'année 1929. Affranchie à 11F50, soit 1F50 de port simple et 10F de surtaxe, elle est revêtue, selon les réglements, d'une étiquette rouge PAR AVION et du cachet linéaire ILE DE FRANCE. Les timbres sont oblitérés par le cachet de ligne NEW YORK AU HAVRE. La lettre a donc voyagé en sens inverse de sa destination. Elle est centralisée à Paris (cachet PARIS-GARE DU NORD du 3 octobre, au verso. A-t-elle été acheminée à new York, lors du voyage du 14 octobre de l'Île-de-France? (collection de l'auteur).

Le courrier

Ce service, exclusivement assuré par le paquebot Île-de-France, dont les départs s'effectuaient du Havre tous les 21 jours, admettait toutes sortes de correspondances, recommandées ou non et des paquets.

Alors qu'à l'époque, la taxe de la lettre simple transatlantique était de 1,50 F, la surtaxe aérienne était de 10 F sur toute lettre ou carte postale recommandée ou non et ne pesant pas plus de 10 grammes. Au-delà de 10 grammes, une taxe supplémentaire de 5 F par cinq grammes ou fraction de cinq grammes était perçue.

En outre, toute les correspondances devaient obligatoirement être revêtues d'une étiquette spéciale rouge ou bleue PAR AVION et la mention: VIA Île-de-France, au tampon ou manuscrite.

Lettre du 23 août 1928 affranchie à L'aide du 1F50 Pasteur surchargé 10 FR. La lettre est revêtue du cachet spécial: AOUT-SEPTEMBRE 1928/PREMIERE LIAISON POSTALE AERIENNE/ TRANSATLANTIQUE/PAR HYDRAVION LANCE PAR CATAPULTE/ DE L'Île-de-France/PILOTE LIEUTENANT DE VAISSEAU L. DEMOUGEOT. (vente B. Behr, mai 1997).

En paires, les timbres surchargés à la hâte à New York (vente B. Behr, mai 1997).

Les timbres spéciaux

Pour répondre à la demande du courrier posté à bord, les agents du bureau de poste situé sur l'Île-de-France avaient été approvisionnés en timbres de hautes valeurs, notamment des timbres de la série Merson à 5 et 10 francs. Or, il semblerait que dès le premier voyage, à l'arrivée à New-York, le bureau manqua de ces timbres. Au cours de l'escale, le contrôleur des postes du paquebot demanda l'autorisation au consul de France à New-York de surchager à la hâte des timbres de basses valeurs qu'il possédait encore, et qui seraient susceptibles de remplacer les timbres de 10 F manquants. Après accord, des feuilles de timbres à 1F50 et à 0,90 francs furent surchargées par l'imprimeur Emile Cabella de New-York. Le 16 août 1928, l'imprimeur surchargeait ainsi mille timbres à 1F50 et 3 000 timbres à 0,90 F. Ces timbres ne sont connus que sur les lettres du 27 août 1928.

Le service d'hydravion catapulté sur l'Atlantique étant peu rentable, la France l'abandonna en 1930. Mais l'Allemagne, qui effectuait de tels capultages depuis 1929, continua jusqu'en 1935. Et d'autres pays emboîtèrent aussi le pas.

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Recherches personnelles de M. Denis Masse.

by Jim Measures

The Corvette

On November 4th, I was both pleased and disappointed when Canada Post issued their stamps to honour The Canadian Naval Reserve. I was pleased because that great Canadian ship, the Corvette was being shown for the first time on a Canadian stamp. My disappointment comes from the years that I spent in Collingwood where many of the Corvettes were built and the *HMCS Sackville* was not one of the Collingwood Corvettes.

Collingwood was, and will always be remembered as a shipbuilding town. When I was transferred there in 1977, the shipyard at the end of the main street was busy building bulk carriers for the great lakes trade. While this was the major business in town, almost everyone who identified themself as a native Collingwooder would talk of the Corvettes that were built there during the war. Between 1940 and 1945 the Collingwood Shipyard built 19 Corvettes as well as 15 other vessels in support of the war effort. To put this into context: in 1977 there was only one launching at Collingwood and only six more in the next 10 years.

The *HMCS Collingwood* was the first Corvette launched on September 14, 1940. It was followed by: *HMCS Orillia* on

November 23, 1940; *HMCS Barrie* on December 19, 1940; *HMCS Galt* on April 9, 1941; *HMCS Moosejaw* on May 15, 1941; *HMCS Battleford* on July 5, 1941; *HMCS Drumheller* on August 16, 1941; *HMCS Le Pas* on October 4, 1941; *HMCS Halifax* on December 10, 1941; and *HMCS Woodstock* on April, 1942.

These were followed by five trawlers for the British Navy then more Corvettes: two for the Americans: *USS Acton* on July 28, 1942 and*USS Alacrity* on September 4, 1942. And three for the Royal Navy: *HMS Dittany* on October 31, 1942; *HMS Smilax* on December 24, 1942; and *HMS Statice* on April 10, 1943. The final four Corvettes were for the Canadian Navy: *HMCS North Bay* on April 27, 1943; *HMCS Owen Sound* on June 15, 1943; *HMCS Guelph* on December 20, 1943; and the last Collingwood Corvette was the *HMCS Fergus* on August 30, 1944.

This shipbuilding made Collingwood an obvious target if the war ever got to Canada, so many preparations were made, including plans for a total blackout in case of air raids. The Collingwood Federal building had a magnificent stained glass ceiling/roof. This was covered over and not uncovered again until the post office moved out in 1994. It can now be seen in all its glory if you visit the Human Resources Canada office on a sunny day. During the war the shipbuilders were not able to see this work of art that their vessels were being sent to protect, but now we can all enjoy it.

The vessels saw distinguished service, chiefly in the Atlantic, although some were in action in the Mediterranean and the Pacific. The people of Collingwood were, and still are, proud of these ships built on Georgian Bay for service around the world.

To understand what a great achievement the building of these ships was, we must understand that they were built in a hurry by a group of people who had lost many of their number to military service. We have all heard of the mythical "Rosie the Riveter", well this was the true situation in Collingwood. Many of the men had enlisted for military service and the jobs were filled by women who quickly learned the needed skills and contributed significantly to the war effort by building Corvettes.

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I am sure that the people who built and sailed in the *HMCS Sackville* are all proud of her. It is after all the last surviving Corvette and can be visited at the Halifax Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. When you are in Halifax, see this maritime treasure and remember also the *Collingwood*, the *Fergus*, and all the other fine vessels built in Collingwood and pray for the safety of all who take to the sea in ships.

Stamp Catalogues

One of the essential tools of any collector is the catalogue. For stamp collectors the catalogue not only tells us what stamps have been issued, but establishes a price for the various stamps. In addition they usually provide tips on how to tell one stamp from another.

The stamps pictured gives two examples. The five-cent stamps show King George VI. They were issued in 1949 and 1950 to replace the wartime issue showing the King in military uniform. If you look carefully, you will see that one stamp has the words POSTES and POSTAGE under the word CANADA, on the other POSTES and POSTAGE are missing. This may seem insignificant, but the price of one is over four times the price of the other. A philatelist will also want to know, "Why the difference?"

In this case the story is: after the war there was a feeling that new stamps were needed to show a more peaceful Canada, therefore the King was shown in civilian clothes rather than the military uniforms he wore on the wartime stamps. When the stamps were printed and delivered to Post Office Headquarters it was discovered that the usual bilingual designation POSTES and POSTAGE was missing. The printer was required to reprint the stamps and the reprinted stamps were issued on November 19, 1949. Because some of the misprinted stamps had been smuggled out to be sold as rarities, the government decided to issue the original stamps and did so on January 19, 1950, thus preventing a profit for the thief. It is also interesting, to note that the hidden date (most Canadian stamps have the year of issue hidden in the design) on both stamps is 1949, although the original design wasn't issued until 1950.

Another interesting example is a pair of stamps, showing Queen Victoria, which were issued before 1900. One has maple leafs in all four corners, the other has the denomination printed in numerals in the two lower corners. One is worth 70-cents, the other $2.75. It is only with the use of a catalogue that we can know what differences to look for.

The Scott catalogue is generally the standard used by most collectors, and Scott's numbering system is used by many other catalogues, and this gives collectors a quick and easy method of identifying individual stamps. (The stamps shown are Scott #66, 74, 288 and 293.) By using the catalogue number, collectors and dealers, can communicate quickly and accurately. It is necessary, however, to identify the catalogue used as there are other catalogues using other numbering systems.

Since I specialize in stamps of New Zealand, I also use a specialized New Zealand catalogue, *Campbell Paterson's*. This is a very detailed catalogue of all varieties, many unknown to general collectors. Most collectors will want to use a Scott catalogue, but if they choose to specialize they can usually find a specialized catalogue to meet their needs. In other cases they may need to create their own catalogue as my friend Ross Irwin, of Guelph, did when he chose to collect postage meter stamps.

Since catalogues can be expensive it is good to know that most libraries have stamp catalogues. For example the Clifford library has a complete Scott catalogue, all four volumes. It could cost a collector over $200 per year to have such a catalogue at home; this is just another reason for philatelists to get to know their library.

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The Chagos Archipelago

by Stephen Pendleton

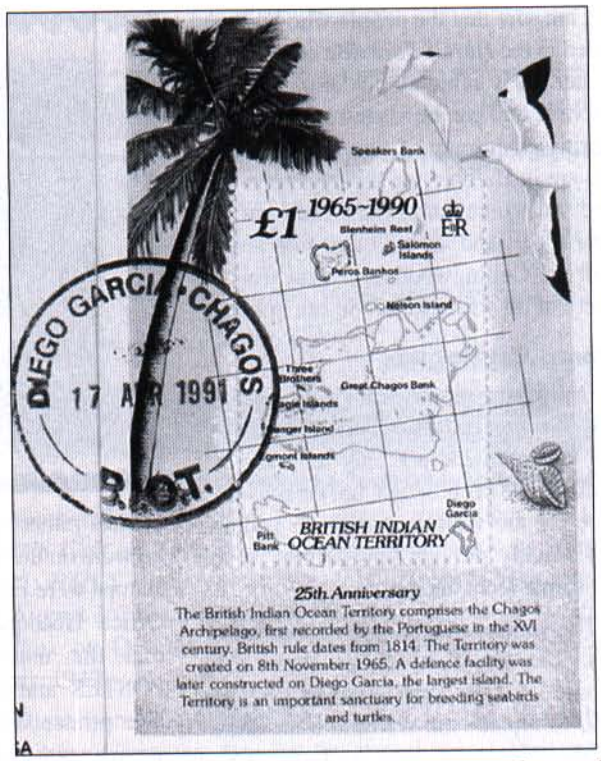
One of the least-known island groups in the world, at least to outsiders, is the Chagos Archipelago. Located south of the Maldive Islands in the Indian Ocean, this group of coral atolls was rarely visited.

After the original settlement from Mauritius in the late 1700s, the Chagos became the home of a number of plantations. As there had been no indigenous population, workers were imported. Over the years they became known as the "Ilois".

These people were often called contract laborers in the literature. In reality, the families often lived on the islands for generations. A tiny group of Europeans provided representatives of absentee plantation ownership. These owners were variously the Companie des Iles, the Diego Garcia Trading Co. and the Chagos Agalega Co.

For the most part, the Chagos was one of the backwaters of the Empire. When the German cruiser *Emdem* stopped at Diego Garcia in 1914, the manager was not yet aware that World War I had broken out. In World War II, a military detachment served on the island. In 1950, a weather station was proposed and a ship fitted out for the task, but the station was never constructed. (A few pieces of mail addressed as flight covers from this 'station' exist, but there is no evidence any flight took place).

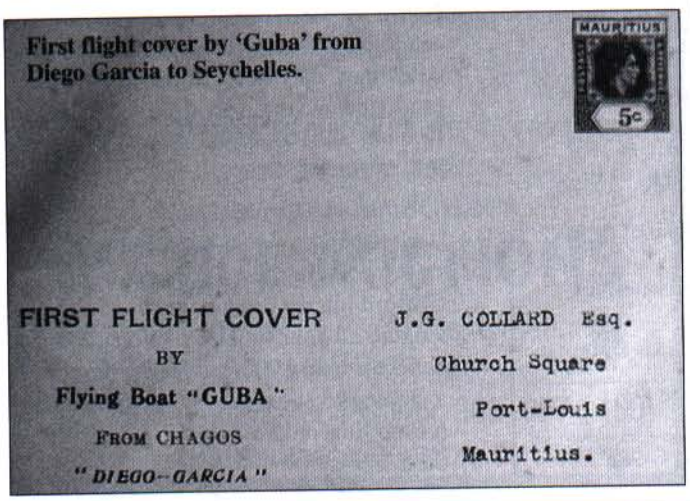
This idyllic scene ended abruptly in 1965, with the establishment of the British Indian Ocean Territory. This far-flung agglomeration included all the isles of the Chagos, plus Farquhar, Desroches and Aldabra Islands, all much closer to the Seychelles.

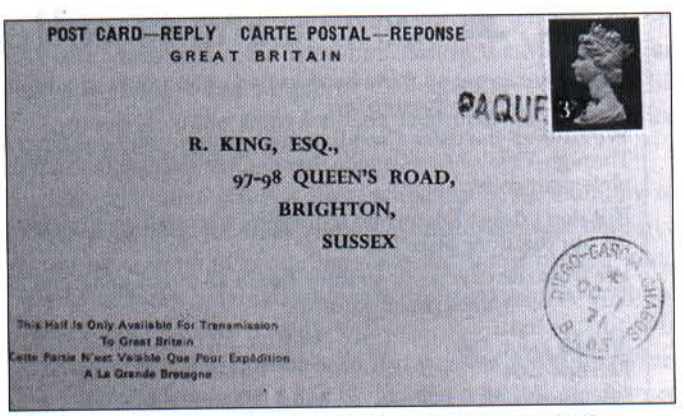


The reason for the late introduction of such a colony, when colonies were rapidly becoming extinct, was Cold War politics. Great Britain and the United States desperately needed a secure Indian Ocean military base to counter Russian interest in the area.

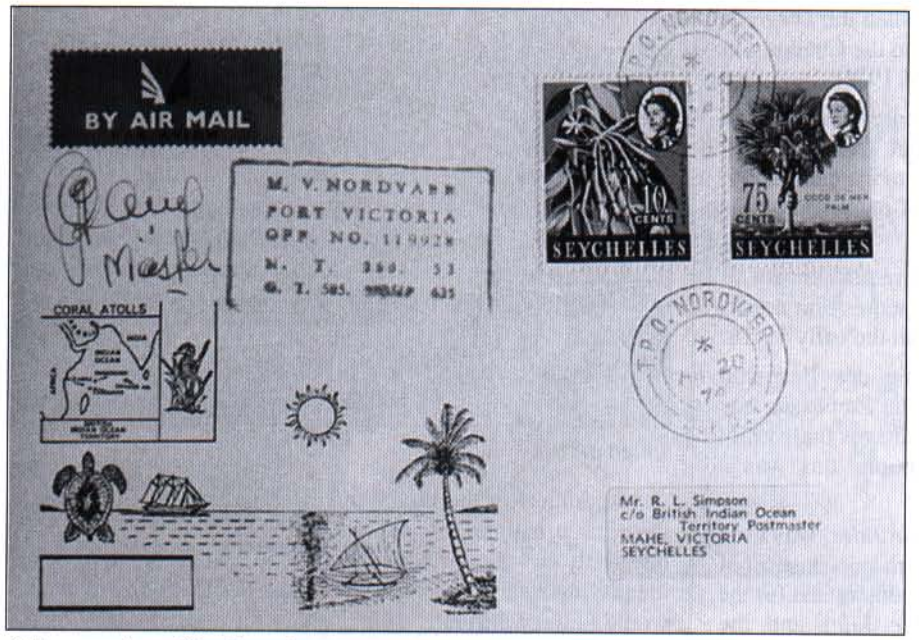
By 1971 the powers had settled upon Diego Garcia in the Chagos as the site for their base. The Diego Agalega Co. sold all their rights for "over One Million Pounds." Several thousand British and American military personnel, and hundreds of Mauritian support workers, became involved in the construction of a highly secret base. All the Ilois in the Chagos, not just on Diego Garcia, were transported to Mauritius. To this day, only the military can visit Diego Garcia, although yachts are allowed to stop at the outer Chagos Islands.

When BIOT stamps were first issued in 1968, six post offices were also created. (Later a traveling post office, the M.V. Nordvaer, was added). With the cessation of stamp issues in 1976, all these offices either had been already or were then closed.





First Diego Garcia postmark on 1971 card which received a paquebot marking in Seychelles.



Ship cover from 'Nordvaer'.

BIOT stamps were issued again beginning in 1990. These, however, are only used at Diego Garcia. The current postmaster estimates monthly income from stamps sales on the island at between 400 and 800 pounds – not a particularly high demand. Perhaps this is because the U.S. military have their own post office, which is part of the APO system. The few British military personnel on the island (about 60) also have their own military system, Naval Party 1002.

Very little is known about Chagos and its communications with the outside world prior to 1968. This is an attempt to summarize what is known, with the proviso that much more remains to be uncovered.

Description

The Chagos Archipelago consists of a number of coral atolls, most of which are part of the Great Chagos bank. These are narrow, low-lying islands, sometimes with dozens of islets. Only one, Diego Garcia, (17 square miles), totals more than a few hundred acres per island.

Diego Garcia eventually had a population of over 500. Of these, about a dozen were Europeans. Because this was by far the largest island in the group, it originally had five or six villages. Eventually the population concentrated in two larger villages.

Other inhabited island groups were Salomon (about 2,000 acres with about 160 inhabitants), with headquarters on Boddam Isle; and Peros Banhos (about 3,000 acres and 300 workers) with headquarters on Ile du Coin).

There are two other island groups to note. The Danger Islands (also known as Eagle and Tres Freres), were inhabited at one time, with about 100 workers. The Egmont Islands are not recorded as being inhabited.

There was one major reason for settlement on these islands: the harvesting of coconuts. From them came dried copra and lamp oil. This is the origination of the alternate name of Oil Islands, by which the Chagos is sometimes known to geographers.

Sea Communications

Because of its isolation, communication between the Chagos and the outside world has historically been very difficult. In the 19th century copra schooners were usually the only method of transport. (A few steam-powered vessels sailed this route in the early 20th century). They sailed about twice a year from Mauritius. The voyage often took eight or more days each way.

Since no postal facilities existed in the Chagos, any mail would have been placed aboard the copra schooners or other ships and carried to Port Louis, Mauritius. The earliest recorded cover from Chagos is an 1849 letter from the French resident on Boddam. This letter was carried via schooner to Mauritius and thence on to France.

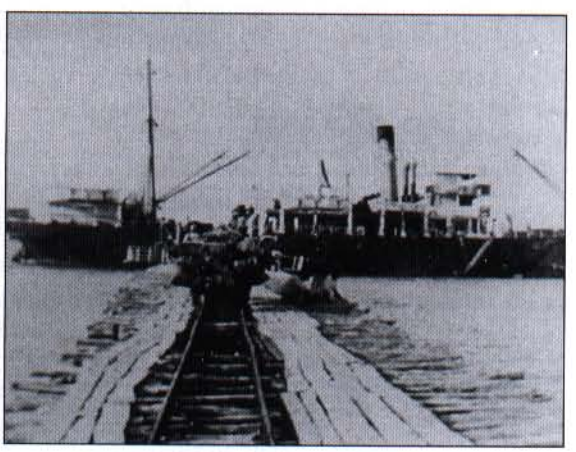
After the introduction of stamps the procedure was substantially the same. Letters were carried to Port Louis, where they would have received a "paquebot" cancel. This at least was the result gained by a few philatelists who tried to get souvenir covers from the Chagos.

Sometimes the only way to locate a Chagos cover is by the return address. Mauritius specialist Peter Ibbotson recounts having a 1941 cover with a Diego Garcia return. This cover was also interesting because it used a five-cent Mauritius stamp, which at the time was the inland rate.

An exception to Chagos' isolation (outside of wartime), occurred in the late 1800s. A coaling station operated by Lund and Co. and the P & O Steamship Line had been set up at Diego Garcia. A relatively large group of Europeans was stationed here, and ships regularly called – the *Lusitania* being probably the most notable. This was not commercially successful, and had been abandoned by 1900.

For many years Diego Garcia had been divided into a number of plantations. By 1887 these had been combined into one, known as the Companie des Iles. This group used a number of vessels from the late 1880s until they went bankrupt in 1960.

At least four vessels have been identified as being employed by the Companie des Iles on the Chagos run. Only a limited amount of information is known about them, and some may have run concurrently.



Original photo of 'Zambezia'.

The first vessel was a three-masted bark called the *Diego*. It is known to have made a number of voyages to the Chagos. On its last voyage, it left Mauritius in late May of 1935.

On June 20, while visiting the Eagle Islands, the *Diego* ran onto the coral reef. An Ilois named Arthur Tallat, seeing the danger, raced to his pirogue and carried a line out to the passengers, who were subsequently rescued. This type of native craft was later depicted on a BIOT stamp, SC33.

Only the name of the second vessel is currently known. It was the *St. Geran*. I do not know its date of acquisition nor its disposition, although I believe it was used until the early 1920s.

Much more is known of the Companie des Iles ship *Zambezia*. Formerly used in Mozambique, the *Zambezia* was purchased in 1925, and made the trek to the Chagos until 1955. She was a steam vessel. From all descriptions this was a decrepit vessel, maintaining a constant list.

From 1950 to 1960, another vessel, the *Sir Jules*, was used on the Mauritius-Diego run. It was also a steam ship. Instead of being old, however, this vessel was specially constructed for the company in the Netherlands. Both the *Sir Jules* and the *Zambezia* are shown on a 1996 set and souvenir sheet issued by Mauritius, SC947-50, SS951.

During the 1960s, a three-masted schoonerd name *Isle of Farquhar* is believed to have sailed in the area, however, I do not yet have definite proof that it called at any of the Chagos.

I include one other ship in this list because of its importance to the Chagos, even though it was last in use in the early 1970s. This was the *Nordvaer*. This small (about 500 ton) vessel was registered in Victoria, Seychelles, and was used for transportation between the Chagos, Seychelles and Mauritius. It was first used as a supply and passenger vessel. When the evacuation of the Ilois began, this was used – sometimes under very crowded conditions. It was also employed by the BIOT administration as a traveling post office.

Of all the ships used in the Chagos, the *Nordvaer* is the only one of which I have a record of cancels and cachets. A double-ring CDS with the wording T.P.O. NORDVAER on the top and BIOT on the bottom was used. It also had a ship's cachet which was rectangular and had five lines of information. There were three stamps issued by BIOT which depicted the *Nordvaer* (SC34 and 56-7). The last date I have seen for the *Nordvaer* cancel is March 22, 1976.

Mauritius SS shows 'Zambezia' and 'Sir Jules'

Photo of 'Nordvaer'

In addition to the copra and BIOT administration vessels, there are a number of other ships known to have visited on a once-only or irregular basis. These may have taken on mail, but identifying such as from Diego Garcia or other Chagos islands would be very difficult.

One of the most interesting visits was made by the *Valdivia*. This was part of the "German Deep Sea Expedition" of 1900. A description of the island was later published in Germany.

Vessels of the Royal Navy made occasional calls at the islands between World War I and World War II. Records exist for vessels of the Fourth Cruiser Squadron, based in Ceylon.

These indicate visits by the cruisers *Caroline*, *Southampton*, *Colombo*, *Cairo*, *Effingham* and *Hawkins* at various times.

Radio Communications

When amateur radio enthusiasts make contact with other operators, the conversation is often noted by sending QSL cards. These are confirmations that contact has taken place. The major problem with these as postal history is that they aren't necessarily mailed from the site of the contact.

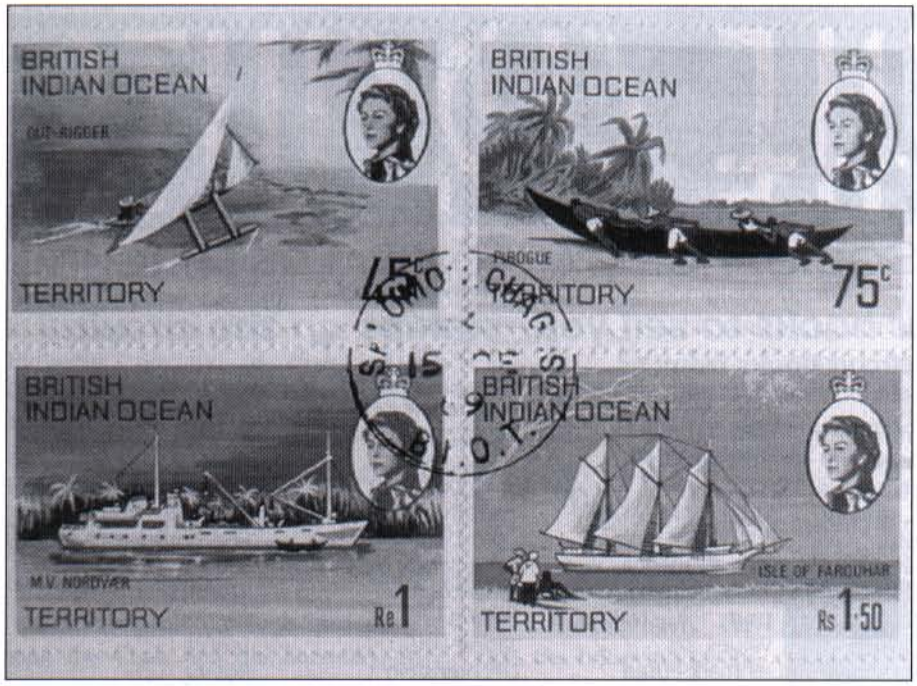
The first radio station in the Chagos was established in 1936, on the Salomon Islands. Later a station was also established on Diego Garcia. I have seen QSL cards from Chagos (Diego Garcia) from 1962 and 1963, and others are known.

Occasionally radio enthusiasts will mount "Expeditions" to remote spots to allow fellow "hams" to log that location. Such an expedition landed on the Egmont Islands for several days in October of 1966. QSL cards were produced for this expedition as well.

Air Communications

With the exception of Diego Garcia, there is precious little space in the Chagos for airfields. That, plus the isolation, meant that aviation was late coming to the archipelago. When it did, it was via seaplane.

What I think are the first recorded cachets mentioning the Chagos, originate from such a seaplane expedition. This was the Richard Archbold expedition to Netherlands New Guinea in 1938-9. This expedition used a Consolidated PBY 5 flying boat, which was nicknamed the "Guba". After the New Guinea flying was concluded the "Guba" returned to New York via the Indian Ocean.



Biot stamps show a pirogue, 'Isle of Farquhar' and 'Nordvaer'.

Several different types of covers were prepared for these flights, all of which are very scarce. (The numbers believed carried range from 10 to 20 per type). One variety had a rectangular printed cachet with a large amount of printing, but mentioned in the middle as one of the stops is Diego Garcia. Not all of the stops mentioned in the cachet were accurate. This cover has no postal markings from Diego Garcia, but it is cancelled at Cocos (Keeling) Islands on June 12, 1939. It also has an uncancelled Seychelles stamp. Another cover carried on the flight was cancelled at Victoria, Seychelles on June 17.

Also existing are a few covers, actually Mauritius postal stationery, which have a cachet in the lower left reading "First Flight Cover/by Flying boat "Guba"/From Chagos/"Diego Garcia"/Dependency of Mauritius". They are addressed to Mauritius, but have no cancel.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands have issued several stamps to honour this "First Indian Ocean Aerial Survey". The "Guba" was shown as one of a set of airplane stamps (SC65). It was shown again on SC208; the Captain, P.G. Taylor, was shown on SC207.

Military Communications

Prior to the 20th century, the major strategic importance of the Chagos was its location on the shipping route across the Indian Ocean. During World War II, it took on added importance because of the possibility – probably remote – of a Japanese landing.

It is known that RAF and other British military units were on Diego Garcia. Their address was Section Q, RAF Ceylon. This detachment was active from 1941 to 1945, with perhaps 50 servicemen. At first, mail was carried via ship to Ceylon. Later in the war, there was a weekly service via flying boat.

Since the establishment of BIOT, Diego Garcia has become one of the most sophisticated military bases in the world. In addition to over a thousand military personnel, there are hundreds of civilian workers, buildings of every description, an airfield and a cleared anchorage. There are British and American military post offices as well as the BIOT office. There are postmarks and cachets from all these offices – but that's another story.

Conclusions

Because of the extreme scarcity of available material, much still remains to be discovered about this area of philately. Specifically, more research needs to be done on the ships and any possible markings they possessed. Also, more information is needed about wartime mail from Diego Garcia. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has such material.

Over the years I have been given great assistance in my research by Peter Ibbotson of Great Britain and by Dr. Gale Raymond of the U.S. Central to these more recent efforts have been my most appreciated colleagues in Mauritius. Merci, mon amis!

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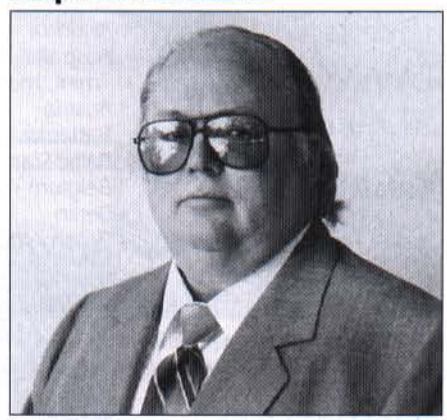
Stephen Pendleton



Stephen Pendleton was born in 1943 in San Francisco. After receiving undergraduate and graduate education at San Francisco State University, he has taught in California schools for over 30 years.

He has specialized in collecting postal history and covers of Antarctica, various isles of the Pacific and outer isles of the Indian Ocean, for almost 30 years. In the past decade he has written over 300 articles on these and other subjects in most American philatelic periodicals.

He currently has a column on "Collecting Antarctica" in *Stamp Collector*. He has been a lecturer at Pacific '97, and was a guest lecturer on the MS Sagafjord on her first voyage to the Antarctic. He was also on the *Professor Khormov* on her Antarctic voyage of 1996.

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Luxembourg
Mexico
Monaco
Montserrat - early, mint
New Zealand - early m&u, modern m&u
Norway
Russia - pre 1940
Scandinavia
South America
Sweden - used, mint booklets
Turkey
UN - pre 1980, m&u
USA - m&u, early used

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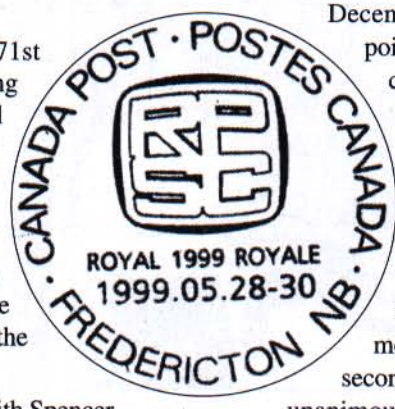
REPORTS FROM ROYAL *1999* ROYALE

Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting of Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada held in Salon A at the Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the 29th day of May, 1999, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon (local time).



The President, Mr. Keith Spencer, took the Chair and the Secretary, Mr. Harry Sutherland, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

Notice of the meeting having been sent to all members and a quorum of members being present in person or represented by proxy, the Chairman declared the meeting to be regularly constituted.

The meeting commenced with a period of silence while names of those Members of the Society who had died since the last annual meeting were read out.

The reading of the Notice of the meeting and minutes of the last annual meeting was dispensed with.

Report of Officers

The report of the year's activities was given by or on behalf of the President, the Treasurer, the Editor of *The Canadian Philatelist*, the Convention Coordinator, the Judging Coordinator, the Anti-theft Committee, the Sales Manager, the Complaints Committee, Youth Coordinator, International Relations and Judging, Medals, Insurance, Historian and Chapter Relations.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the reports were accepted.

Financial Statements

Mr. John Keenlyside presented to the meeting the financial statements of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada as at December 31, 1998, and pointed out that it was not complete because of the winding up of the Sales Circuit. The auditor was not able to audit the statements until this was done. He reviewed the statements and on motion duly made and seconded and unanimously carried, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the financial statements of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada as at December 31, 1998, as presented to this meeting be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.

Appointment of Auditors

On motion duly made and seconded and unanimously carried, Messrs. Robinson, Lott & Brohman were appointed to act as auditors of the Society for the ensuing year at a fee to be fixed by the directors, and the directors being authorized to fix such fee.

Election of Directors

The Chairman stated that one-half of the directors were to be elected and stated that their nominations for election to the board of directors had been received and published as required. On motion duly made and seconded and unanimously carried, the following were elected as directors for the ensuing year or until their successors were elected or appointed, namely: Francois Brisse; Raymond Ireson; John Keenlyside; Father J.C. Lafleur; J. Edward Nixon; Elizabeth Sodero; Harry Sutherland; Ann Triggle.

Ratification of Acts of Directors and Officers

On motion duly made and seconded and unanimously carried, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: all actions of the directors and officers of the Society from the last annual meeting of Members to the date hereof, be and the same are hereby approved.

Fifty year members who attended this year's Royal were James E. Kraemer (left) and Michael Madesker.

General

Presentations were then made to the Members who had attained their 50th anniversary of membership in the Society and who were in attendance at the Annual Meeting, namely Messrs. Kraemer and Madesker.

Presentations were then made to J.J. Macdonald as retiring Editor of *C.P.* and a director and to David Oberholtzer as retiring Treasurer and a director. Special thanks were given to them for their invaluable contributions to the society. The Chairman then invited all those present to attend the Winnipeg convention to be held August 28-30, 2000 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society.

Following a number of remarks of the members present, the meeting then adjourned after a vote of thanks to the organizers of Royal 1999 ROYALE.

Report of the President

Report of the President, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada to the 71st Annual General Meeting of Members.

Introduction

The period since our 1998 annual meeting has been a busy one for your Society. We have dealt with a number of important issues and appear to be pointed in a positive direction. I wish to acknowledge the support and counsel of our Past President, Bill Robinson, our Honourary Secretary, Harry Sutherland, our Vice Presidents, Charles Verge and Grégoire Teyssier, our Board Members, Officers and Office Manager, Andrew Parr and his staff. We are working hard to position your Society for a successful entry into the next century.

The National Office

We continue to retain the services of Andrew Parr and Associates who are handling our general administrative functions. Our ability to respond to member issues and concerns continues to improve and we feel that our affairs are being well attended to.

The Canadian Philatelist

Perhaps the most visible change has been the reformatting of *The Canadian Philatelist.* Our editor, Dr. J.J. Macdonald has done a tremendous job and we are enjoying a much improved regularity of publication. I should like to acknowledge the assistance of Charles Verge, our National Office, and our Publisher, Trajan, in the successful launch of our new magazine format.

Membership

Membership numbers are our single most important issue. We have undertaken new initiatives such as a recruitment rewards program and are currently reviewing this initiative. Ray Ireson has worked hard to strengthen our membership at the Chapter level and we ask all here to participate in our continuing effort to "Grow the Royal".

Left, J.J. MacDonald receives a presentation from RPSC President Keith Spencer. And right, Ron Smith, co-chair of Royal * 1999 * Royale discusses stamp collecting with New Brunswick Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Trenholme Counsell.

Sales Circuits

The Sales Circuits have been the subject of a great deal of attention and our goal has been to provide a financially prudent and improved service to our members. To this end, we conducted an extensive search for a new operator and have announced the appointment of R.D. (Dwayne) Miner as our Society circuit operator. We are impressed with Mr. Miner's enthusiasm and plans for an improved service to members and recommend him to you.

At the same time, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and effort of our previous operator, Mollie Krajewski, who has served the Society well. As well, former Director, Alan McKanna, is thanked for his stewardship of the program over the past many years.

Insurance

The Society continues to offer an extensive program of insurance for stamp collections through the firm of Hugh Wood. We continue to monitor and fine-tune this program to better meet members' needs. Our recently introduced Chapter insurance program has been a good success and we invite additional Chapter participation.

Finances

While costs continue to be a concern, we feel that we have received good value for our administrative expenditures. David Oberholtzer has monitored this area in the past and now our Vancouver Director, John Keenlyside is taking over this important portfolio. Suffice to say that we continue to be careful in our expenditures and are working to increase our membership numbers.

Conclusion

This report is a brief résumé of some of the key interest areas with which your Board continues to deal. We continue to be challenged in a number of areas and we hope to be in an improved position when we meet next year in Winnipeg.

I wish to invite the involved participation of our members in the business of the Society. I invite you to contact me with your concerns and promise an interested response.

Thank you for attending this meeting.
Respectfully submitted
Keith R. Spencer

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada held in the Prince Edward Room at the Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the 29th day of May, 1999, at the hour of 12:00 noon (local time).

Elia Anoia, of Canada Post, selects a door prize winner with the help of Royal co-chair Michael Nowlan.

Royal Co-Chair Ron Smith takes part in a presentation with Micheline Montreuil, director of stamp products for Canada Post.

Present: Keith R. Spencer; Raymond Ireson; John Keenlyside; Michael Madesker; Kenneth Magee; Rick Penko; John Powell; William G. Robinson; Elizabeth Sodero; Ann Triggle; Charles Verge; Harry Sutherland.

A quorum of directors being present and the meeting being held immediately following the Annual Meeting of Members held earlier this day, the Chairman declared the meeting to be regularly constituted.

Election and/or Appointment of Officers

Mr. Verge indicated that, since the Society was in a period of transition, it seemed to him to be desirable to maintain the same officers as previously, with only two changes, as noted below.

On motion duly made and seconded and unanimously carried, the following were elected and/or appointed to the office indicated opposite their names:

Keith Spencer	President
Charles J.G. Verge	1st Vice-President
Gregoire Teyssier	2nd Vice-President
John Keenlyside	Treasurer
William Pekonen	Editor, *The Canadian Philatelist*
John Keenlyside	Chairman Finance Committee
Alan McKanna	Member Finance Committee
Ted Nixon	Member Finance Committee
Andrew Parr	Administrator
Charles J.G. Verge	Canada Post Liaison Committee, Historian
James E. Kraemar	Consultant to Chairman, Liaison Committee
William G. Robinson	Past President
Father J.C. Lafleur	Youth Coordinator
Yvan Latulippe	Assistant Youth Coordinator
John Powell	Youth Coordinator (West)
F. Warren Dickson	Chairman, Anti-Theft Committee
Richard Gratton	Anti-Theft Quebec and East
William G. Robinson	Anti-Theft West
Graham McCleave	Convention Coordinator
J. Donald Wilson	Chairman Complaints Committee
Kimmo Salonen	Manager, Slide Programs
George MacManus	Manager, Chapter Medals
Ray W. Ireson	Coordinator Chapter Relations
John Powell	Judging Coordinator
Ann Triggle	A.P.S. Liaison
Michael O. Nowlan	Public Relations
Harry Sutherland	Secretary, Intl. Liaison

The President was given power to add someone from Central Canada as a Youth Coordinator and in addition, it was noted that Robin Harris was updating our website.

Re-appointment of Executive Committee

On motion duly made and seconded and unanimously carried the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the immediate past President, (Mr. William G. Robinson) and the Treasurer, and the Secretary were appointed as members of the Executive Committée.

General

The situation with respect to insurance was discussed as was that relating to Members. It was decided that a prize of $100 be given to the Chapter with the greatest percentage of Members and the Chapters which were members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada as at December 31, 1999. Obviously, this will be applicable to Chapters having more than five or 10 Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

It was decided that the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada medals should be offered firstly to the Lakeshore Stamp Club and then to any other Chapter that might be interested. It was further decided that a suggestion from a Member with respect to Century Membership should not be adopted.

The meeting then adjourned.

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ROYAL NAMES THREE NEW FELLOWS

At its Annual Convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick May 28-30, 1999, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) elected John Jamieson, Denis Masse and William Topping as Fellows of The RPSC.

James Kraemer, Dean of Fellows, made the announcement of the new inductees at The RPSC Awards Banquet on May 29th. New Fellows are elected at the annual meeting of Fellows held in conjunction with The RPSC Annual Convention.

Fellows must meet at least one of the following criteria: they have actively worked for the betterment of The RPSC; they have promoted Canadian philately extensively through writing; and/or have, through a number of activities, made Canadian philately better at the international level.

These outstanding philatelists have led distinguished careers in support of stamp collecting, and they have ensured many collectors of added enjoyment in the hobby because of their expertise and dedication. Short biographies of the new Fellows follow.

John Jamieson, FRPSC

Saskatoon Stamp Centre head John Jamieson is one of Canada's leading philatelists. He is not a stamp collector, but Jamieson is one of the most knowledgeable people in the hobby. His biggest thrill is to pass on the pleasure of a great find to a keen collector.

Although John Jamieson started as a coin collector at age 16, he soon became interested in stamps when he got a job sorting stamps at Saskatoon Stamp and Coin Centre. After university graduation, he became part owner of the firm. When the company reorganized in 1984, Jamieson became the sole owner of what is now Saskatoon Stamp Centre, which has one of the strongest reputations among stamp dealerships in the world.

Jamieson has published numerous articles in *The Canadian Philatelist*, *BNA Topics*, *Linn's Stamp News*, *Stamp Collector*, and several newsletters. Today, he has the most extensive listing of philatelic literature in Canada, and his literature catalogue has created a singular dimension in this country. Jamieson's expertise is often required in the identification and clarification of Canadian stamps and varieties. He is a member of many stamp organizations, and he is currently chair of the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association Ethics Committee.

Denis Masse, FRPSC

Denis Masse of Montréal is a retired journalist who long supported the hobby through the press. Since July 1961, he published approximately 2,000 weekly stamp columns in *La Presse*. Today, in retirement, he writes a regular column for *Actualité médicale*, and he was also responsible for starting several philatelic publications. Over the years, Denis Masse has attended more than 50 stamp conferences and exhibited his thematic collection, which has been awarded silver and gold medals.

He was a driving force in several philatelic exhibitions in Montréal, particularly EXUP XII (1980) and Salon de la philatélie (1978). His public contribution features a term as a member of the Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee. As a philatelic writer, Masse has made an outstanding effort to support the hobby he loves.

William Topping, FRPSC

William Topping of Vancouver completes the list of 1999 Fellows for The RPSC. Topping is another remarkable philatelist whose work is widely known across Canada. He is a past president of both the British Columbia Philatelic Society and the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. His organizational skills were demonstrated when he chaired ROYAL *1977* ROYALE and BNAPEX in 1969. He has also served as chair and editor of B.C. Postal History Study Group, BNAPS, and PHSC.

As a philatelic writer, William Topping was the series editor for several post office titles in western Canada, including *Post Offices of Alberta*. He also wrote *Story of Yukon Airways & Exploration Co.* (1996). As an exhibitor, Topping has won vermeil medals at the international level. William Topping is a specialist in British Columbia Coast Ships and Japanese Internment Mail.

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par / by Michel Brisebois

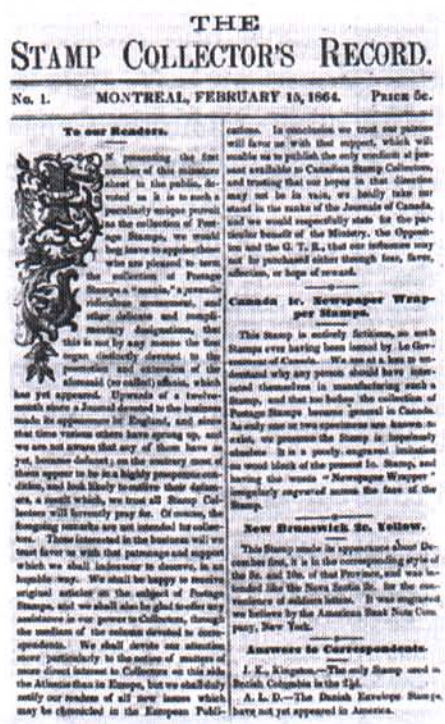
From the Rare Book Collection of the National Library of Canada

S. Allan Taylor (1838-1913) The Stamp Collector's Record. Montreal: S.A. Taylor. issue no.1 (February 15, 1864).

Ever since the first postage stamp was issued in Britain in 1840, philately has been one of the most popular hobbies in the world. In British North America, several provinces took over the post offices in their territories in 1851. The first postage stamps in the country were produced that year in the Province of Canada, in New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia. Newfoundland issued its first stamp in 1857, British Columbia and Vancouver Island in 1860, and Prince Edward Island in 1861. From its beginning, stamp collecting was a mania; over 75 philatelic journals and magazines were published in Canada during the 19th century, four of them before Confederation.

The very first of these publications, not only in Canada but also in North America, was *The Stamp Collector's Record* by Daniel Rose printed in Montreal in 1864 for S. Allan Taylor. This first issue printed in Canada – a reported second issue has never been found – contains only four pages, consisting primarily of advertisements. The publication is extremely rare. The National Library holds one copy and the only other copy in Canada is located at the Canadian Postal Museum Archives / National Archives of Canada. It contains two short notes dealing with a fictitious newspaper wrapper stamp and a fraud that had occurred in the United States. It is ironic that these forgeries and frauds are found in Taylor's publication since he was to become one of the best known philatelic forgers of his time.

Born in Scotland in 1838, S. Allan Taylor was sent to New York by his foster parents in 1850. He came to Montreal in 1861, where he held a number of odd jobs and sold stamps, some of which were fantasy local stamps (stamps said to have been issued by organizations which had, in fact, never existed). Some of these even bore his portrait! In the summer of 1864, he moved to Albany (New York). That December, he began a new series of *The Stamp Collector's Record*, the first philatelic journal in the U.S. It was to appear irregularly until 1876.



THE
STAMP COLLECTOR'S RECORD.

No. 1. MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 15, 1864. PRICE 5c.

To our Readers.

In presenting the first number of this miniature sheet to the public, devoted as it is to such a peculiarity unique pursuit as the collection of Postage Stamps, we would beg leave to apprise those who are pleased to term the collection of Postage Stamps a "mania," a juvenile ridiculous amusement, and other delicate and complimentary designations, that this is not by any means the first organ exclusively devoted to the promotion and extension of the aforesaid (so called) affinity, which has yet appeared. Upwards of a twelvemonth since a Journal devoted to the business made its appearance in England, and since that time various others have sprung up, and we are not aware that any of them have as yet, become defunct; on the contrary most of them appear to be in a highly prosperous condition, and look likely to outlive their detractors, a result which, we trust all Stamp Collectors will fervently pray for. Of course, the foregoing remarks are not intended for collectors. Those interested in the business will we trust favor us with the patronage and support which we shall endeavour to deserve, in an humble way. We shall be happy to receive original articles on the subject of Postage Stamps, and we shall also be glad to offer any assistance in our power to Collectors, through the medium of the columns devoted to correspondents. We shall devote our attention more particularly to the notice of matters of more direct interest to Collectors on this side the Atlantic than in Europe, but we shall duly notify our readers of all new issues which may be chronicled in the European Publications. In conclusion we trust our patrons will favor us with that support, which will enable us to publish the only medium at present available to Canadian Stamp Collectors, and trusting that our hopes in that direction may not be in vain, we boldly take our stand in the ranks of the Journals of Canada, and we would respectfully state for the particular benefit of the Ministry, the Opposition and the G. T. R., that our influence may not be purchased either through fear, favor, affection, or hope of reward.

Canada 1c. Newspaper Wrapper Stamps.

This Stamp is entirely fictitious, as such Stamps ever having been issued by Le Government of Canada. We are at a loss to understand why any person should have interested themselves in manufacturing such a Stamp, and that too before the collection of Postage Stamps became general in Canada. As only one or two specimens are known to exist, we presume the Stamp is impudently obsolete. It is a poorly engraved imitation on wood block of the present 1c. Stamp, and having the words "Newspaper Wrapper" irregularly engraved across the face of the Stamp.

New Brunswick 2c. Yellow.

This Stamp made its appearance about December first, it is in the corresponding style of the 5c. and 10c. of that Province, and was intended like the Nova Scotia 2c. for the convenience of soldiers letters. It was engraved we believe by the American Bank Note Company, New York.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. K., Kingston.—The only Stamp used in British Columbia is the 12d.

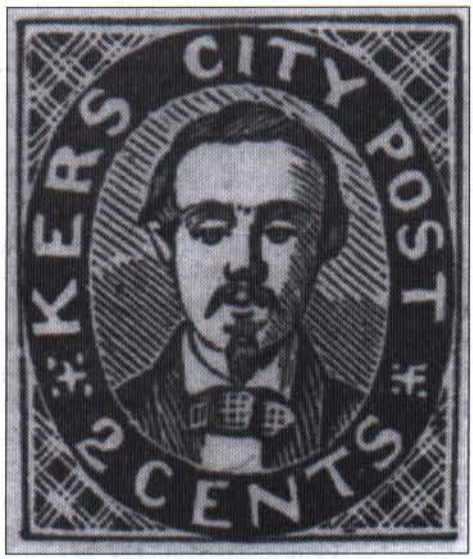
A. L. D.—The Danish Envelope Stamps have not yet appeared in America.

De la Collection des livres rares de la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

S. Allan Taylor (1838-1913) The Stamp Collector's Record Montréal : S.A. Taylor, no.1 (15 février 1864).

Depuis l'avénement du premier timbre-poste produit en Angleterre en 1840, la philatélie est un des passe-temps les plus populaires au monde. En Amérique du Nord britannique, plusieurs provinces assumèrent le contrôle des bureaux de poste sur leur territoire partir de 1851. Les premiers timbres-poste au pays furent produits cette année-là dans la Province du Canada, au Nouveau-Brunswick et en Nouvelle Écosse. Terre-Neuve mit son premier timbre en 1857, la Colombie-Britannique et l'Île de Vancouver en 1860, et l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard en 1861. Dès le début, la collection de timbres devint une folie avec plus de 75 périodiques et magazines philatéliques publiés au Canada au 19e siècle, dont quatre sont publiés avant la Confédération. La toute première de ces publications, non seulement au Canada mais aussi en Amérique du Nord, fut *The Stamp Collector's Record*, imprimé à Montréal en 1864 par Daniel Rose pour S. Allan Taylor. Ce premier numéro imprimé au Canada – on signale un second numéro qui n'a jamais retracé – n'a que quatre pages contenant surtout des réclames. Il s'agit d une publication extrêmement rare. La Bibliothèque nationale en possède un exemplaire et le seul autre exemplaire

Samuel Allan Taylor. **National Archives of Canada**



Faux timbre-poste à l'effigie de S. Allan Taylor. / Forged stamp featuring image of S. Allan Taylor.

In September 1865, another move sent him to Boston, where producing and selling philatelic forgeries became his main activity. He maintained a loose association with a group of scoundrels, known by some as the Boston Gang . The gang specialized in bogus stamps, such as fictitious first issues of South American countries, backed by official documents supposedly emanating from these countries, which, of course, were also fake.

Canadian collectors associate Taylor's name with the 1872 fictitious 10-cent issue of Prince Edward Island (no such denomination ever appeared). The lack of specialized information, slow international communications, and a very strong demand for unusual stamps from the ever-growing population of collectors, made stamp forgery a profitable, if somewhat hazardous, occupation. Throughout his life, Taylor played hide-and-seek with collectors and dealers, advertising his own forgeries in *The Stamp Collector's Record* while exposing those of competitors in the pages of his journal. Formal accusations of counterfeiting plagued Taylor's activities in the early 1890s and forced him to abandon his career. He later took on a number of odd jobs in the Boston area and died in 1913.

The National Library of Canada holds numerous 19th-century Canadian philatelic publications, including journals, magazines, and official publications. It is pleased to make them available to researchers interested in the history of our postal system.

Sources:

Kindler – 'Caveat Emptor'. The Life and Works of S. Allan Taylor – *Philatelic Literature Review*. Vol.15, no. 2 (1966).– p. 59-77, 80-89.

Tyler Varro E. – Philatelic Forgers. Their Lives and Works. Sidney (Ohio): *Linn's Stamp News*, 1991. 165 p.

répertorié au Canada se trouve aux Archives postales canadiennes / Archives nationales du Canada. Il renferme deux courtes notes ayant trait à un faux timbre pour bande de journal et une fraude qui s'était produite aux États-Unis. Il est assez ironique de voir ces faux et ces fraudes se retrouver dans la publication de Taylor qui devint un des faussaires de timbres-poste les mieux connus de son temps.

Né en Écosse en 1838, S. Allan Taylor fut envoyé New York par ses parents adoptifs en 1850. Il vint à Montréal en 1861 où il s'occupa à divers travaux dont la vente de timbres, certains tant des timbres locaux de fantaisie, c'est dire de prétendus timbres mis par des organismes qui en fait n'avaient jamais existé. Certains étaient même son effigie ! À l'été 1864, il s'installa à Albany (New York) d'où, en décembre de la même année, il commença la publication de la nouvelle série *The Stamp Collector's Record*, le premier périodique philatélique aux États-Unis. Il parut d'une façon irrégulière jusqu'en 1876.

En septembre 1865, il déménagea à Boston, où la fabrication et la vente de contrefaçons philatéliques devinrent ses activités principales. Il s'associa de temps autre à un groupe d'escrocs que certains surnommèrent la Bande de Boston . Ils se spécialisaient dans les timbres de fantaisie telles que les fausses premières missions de pays d'Amérique du Sud, qu'ils certifiaient à l'aide de documents officiels manant supposément de ces pays, et qui n'étaient, bien entendu, que des faux.

Les collectionneurs canadiens associent le nom de Taylor l'émission d'un faux timbre de 10 cents de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard en 1872 (aucune mission de cette dénomination n'a paru). Le manque d'informations spécialisées, les communications internationales lentes et la forte demande pour des timbres hors du commun provenant d'une population toujours croissante de collectionneurs firent de la contrefaçon des timbres-poste une occupation lucrative si ce n'est quelque peu dangereuse. Pendant toute sa vie, Taylor joua à cache-cache avec les collectionneurs et les marchands, annonçant ses propres faux dans *The Stamp Collector Record* tout en dévoilant ceux de ses compétiteurs dans les pages de sa publication. Des accusations formelles de fabrication de faux freinèrent les activités de Taylor au début des années 1890 et le forcèrent à abandonner sa "carrière". Il occupa plustard diffrents emplois dans la région de Boston et mourut en 1913.

La Bibliothèque nationale du Canada possède de nombreuses publications philatéliques canadiennes du 19e siècle, notamment des périodiques, des magazines et des publications officielles. Elle est heureuse de les rendre accessibles aux chercheurs intéressés à l'histoire de notre sysème postal.

Sources consultée

Kindler, J. – "Caveat Emptor". The Life and Works of S. Allan Taylor – Philatelic Literature Review. Vol. 15, n 2 (1966). P. 59-77, 80-89.

Tyler, Varro E. – Philatelic Forgers. Their Lives and Works. – Sidney (Ohio) : Linn's Stamp News, 1991. 165 p.

Australia '99

by Owen L. White

World Stamp Expo held in Melbourne, Australia from March 19-24 was a great success.

Following years of effective planning, widespread advertising, and days of feverish preparations, World Stamp Expo was opened on March 19th by the Australian Governor-General, Sir William Deane, "supported" by a troupe of on-stage pirates who entertained the visitors with Gilbert & Sullivan style lyrics and antics.

Described as a "significant event" for Melbourne in 1999 by the Premier of Victoria (Mr. Jeff Kennett), more than 70,000 visitors attended over the six days, thus exceeding the expectations of the organizers.

The Expo was indeed both significant and successful for both Canada Post and the 12 Canadian philatelists who exhibited their collections. Canada Post won the award (a piece of decorative pottery by an Australian aboriginal craftsman) for the Best Postal Administration Stand and a Toronto philatelist, Ron Brigham, was awarded a Large Gold medal and won the Grand Prix International (a bark painting by the famed aboriginal artist, Maymaru Naminapu) for his exhibit "The Province of Canada: The Pence and Cents Issues, 1851-1868".

Canadian philatelists from Alberta to Quebec – submitted 14 exhibits and in total were awarded medals: Large Gold: one; Gold: one; Large Vermeil: four; Vermeil: six; Large Silver: one,;and Silver Bronze: one. Of these 14 exhibits, three were first time entries in international competition and were awarded one Large Vermeil, one Vermeil and one Large Silver.

All Canadian exhibitors and Canada Post deserve our heartiest congratulations.

World Stamp Expo featured several unique features and activities and may well have established new routes to be followed in future International Exhibitions.

The classes available for competitive exhibition did not include the well established postal history, aerophilately, thematic or philatelic literature classes typical of FIP sponsored exhibitions. On this occasion, a new class, Social Philately, was included on an experimental basis and from the exhibits displayed, was, no doubt, a great success. Thirty-three entries in 170 frames demonstrated a wide range of topics and were very popular with attendees. As the awareness of the characteristics of the material eligible for this class becomes widely known and clearly defined, interest and exhibiting will rapidly grow. Entries at Melbourne included "Mourning Memorabilia," "Social History with Mails of the Victorian Goldfield 1850-1900," "The Australian Electoral Office," "Development of Sewing Machines" and so on.

Perhaps the most popular single activity at World Expo was the production of personalized stamps by Australia Post. People lined up for one to two hours to be photographed by one of four digital cameras at a special stand and to emerge five to six minutes later with up to five sheets of 10 each of the 45-cent Maritime Stamp (The Polly Woodside) with attached tab of their photograph. Before the Expo was over, Australia Post was advertising that this service would be available in all Australian capital cities within the next few months.

Visitors to Expo were also offered the opportunity to perforate their own miniature sheets of reprints of the Navigator Series stamps. The Royal Australian Mint also got into the mood of "do-it-yourself" by enabling individuals to mint their own copy of the new 1999 $1 circulating coin, the Australian Army "Diggers" of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915.

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Concurrently with the Stamp Expo, Australia Post organized a three-day conference on "Stamp Futures" converging stamp production, stamp security and strategic marketing. Generally technical in content and restricted to professionals of printing companies or postal administrations, etc., the last day (strategic marketing and the future of international exhibitions) was open to the general public. Georges de Passille, Stamp Design Manager, Canada Post, gave papers on Canadian innovations in stamp design and production and of the Canadian experience with self-adhesive stamps and in the Marketing session, Micheline Montreuil, Director, Stamp Products, Canada Post, gave a paper on Canada Post experiences. Generally, the three-day conference was considered a very successful event.

Other more conventional activities associated with International Exhibitions included exhibits in the Court of Honour. On this occasion, exhibits from the collections from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, H.S.H. Prince Ranier of Monaco and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri of Thailand were shown. Also on display were some magnificent material from the Australia Post Archival Collections, the Smithsonian Institute (The "Titanic" collection), the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the Australian dealer, Richard Juzwin, Pty. Ltd. of Melbourne.

The release of the first Australian stamp leading up to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, was the occasion to bring together some of the Australian living "icons" of the 1956 Melbourne games, when the four members of the Gold Medal Women's four by 100 yard freestyle final participated in the launch of the new stamp.

A new book featuring "The Chapman Collection of Australian Commonwealth Stamps" was released on March 20th by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Ray Chapman himself and Maurice Williams, former Chairman of the Board of Australia Post at the time of the purchase of the collection for the Archives, participated in the launching program.

Dealers from Australia and New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States (no Canadian dealer were present) occupied 84 trade stands. Many reported brisk business with expectations exceeded. Stanley Gibbons Pty. Ltd. conducted the official Australia '99 auction the day before the Expo opened when more than 1,700 lots brought over $1.5 million.

This report cannot, by any means, include all the activities at Australia '99 but we have tried to present the highlights. The Organizing Committee is to be congratulated for an extremely fine and well presented Expo which will surely set high standards for future International Exhibitions. Committee President, Dr. Ed Druce is well known amongst the Canadian philatelic community, dating back to the early 1980s when he was the Australian Trade Commissioner stationed in Toronto and when he participated in philatelic activities across the country whenever his official duties enabled or permitted him to do so.

(Owen L. White was the National Commissioner for Canada at Australia '99).

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by J.C. Arnell, FRPSC

An Example of a Late Ferriage Charge

The charging of Ferriage to cover the cost of ferrying letters across waterways along the Canadian-United States' boundary was practiced between 1829 and 1837. When it was abolished, the February 22, 1838 Post Office notice was as follows:

"Ferry Postage – From the 6th of March next, inclusive, the practice of adding Ferry Postage to Letters to and from the American Territory, passing through the distributing Offices in Upper Canada, in direct communication with the United States is to be discontinued. That Postage will, in future, be confined to letters originating in or addressed to the Towns where the distributing Offices are situated.

"The Deputy Post Master General has felt it to be his duty to abolish the Ferry Postage in the case above described, as the object for which it is understood to have been adopted – that of forming a fund to support several Post communications with a foreign country – has been secured."

The occasional letter is found which shows the continuing collection of Ferriage at exchange offices, such as Kingston, where it seemed to have been practiced more than at other such offices. The illustrated letter was mailed at Oswego, New York on July 11, 1846 and rated five cents U.S. postage due as an unpaid letter.

It would have been taken by road to Cape Vincent, NY and across the St. Lawrence River by two ferries, as there was an island to be crossed in the middle, to Kingston, where it was backstamped the following day and rated 6d. Cy. postage due, consisting of 3d. conversion of the U.S. charge, plus 3d Ferriage.

Fig. 1

When a letter to or from Queenston, Toronto (across Lake Ontario), or Prescott has an apparent 2d. Cy. overcharge in the 1840s, it is probably another example of a late Ferriage charge.

The Ogdensburg, N.Y. Exchange

One of the recognized exchange points of mails with the United States in Upper Canada was that of Prescott, U.C. and Ogdensburg, N.Y. This was one of three pairs of offices named in the 1829 Ferriage agreement between the two Post Offices and handled the Canadian Mails from points east of the Lake Ontario – Queenston/Lewiston and Kingston/Cape Vincent being the other two identified pairs.

While most letters travelled overland to and from Prescott and crossing the St. Lawrence River to Ogdensburg on the south shore, correspondents in Montreal took advantage of the steamboats that operated on the river above the Lachine Rapids above the city when an opportunity arose.

The first illustration (Fig. 2), is such a letter, date 7 June 1821, and addressed to Waddington, not far from Ogdensburg in upper New York, It was entrusted to a Mr. Ellis, who operated a private mail service along the St. Lawrence. The writer was a merchant doing business with the addressee and referred to 'Crawford's Boat (leaving) this (Montreal) on her return to Ogdensburg', and also to the boat *Caroline* Capt. Mills carrying goods to the same town.

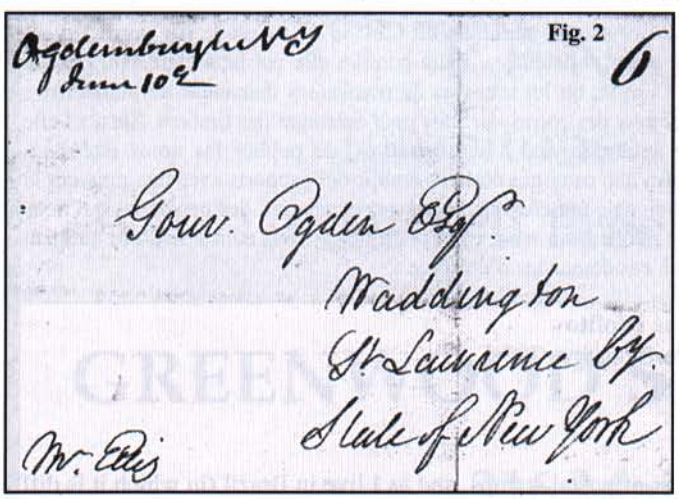
Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Presumably Mr. Ellis made use of such boats to travel on with his mails. The letter was landed at Ogdensburg and put into the post office, where it received a manuscript 'Ogdensburg NY / June 10th' and was rated six cents postage due.

The second illustration (Fig. 3), was a more common type of letter and was mailed at Bytown (Ottawa), U.C. on 4 August 1852 and struck with an encircled '6' to show the unpaid 6d. Cy. postage to destination. It was backstamped at Prescott, U.C. on 6 August and datestamped at Ogdensburg later the same day, where it was rated 10 cents postage due to West Rush, N.Y.

As our members are aware, the old Sales Circuit so efficiently run by Molly Krajewski is being wound up and many of the users of the Sales Circuit will have received their accounting from the Sales Circuit. If you still have outstanding Sales Circuit books for which there has not been any accounting by the time this notice is published, please get in touch with Alan McKanna at: 222 Riverview Rd., Alliston, ON, L9R 1Y1; call (705) 435-6709 or fax: (705) 435-0925.

The members will appreciate that the RPSC is anxious to complete the wind-up of the old Sales Circuit and therefore would request you file any claims by September 1, 1999, failing which any claim would only be received under exceptional circumstances.

By Order,
H. Sutherland
Board Secretary

NORDIA 2001 Announces Jury and Commissioners

The organizing committee has named nine judges and 10 commissioners for the special 500-frame NORDIA 2001 exhibition that will be held in Tucson, Arizona, January 26-28, 2001.

The show will be held in conjunction with the winter meeting of the American Philatelic Society, the annual convention of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, and the ARIPEX World Series of Philately exhibition. One of the goals of this event is to promote Scandinavian philately in the United States and thus create international friendship among Nordic area collectors everywhere.

Each judge will also serve as commissioner for his respective country. The judges include: John E. Lievsay (USA) President of Jury, Hasse F. Brockenhuus von Löwenhielm (Sweden), Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway), Toke Norby (Denmark), Sigurður Pétursson (Iceland), Juhani Pietilä (Finland), Roger G. Schnell (USA), Stephen D. Schumann (USA), and Stephen S. Washburne (USA). NORDIA 2001 president Gordon C. Morison named one additional U.S. commissioner, Warren H. Pearse.

Collectors interested in learning more about NORDIA 2001 are invited to visit the web page at: www.nordia2001.org or write to: NORDIA 2001, Inc., PO Box 59305, Potomac, MD 20859 USA.

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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 du Canada ne s'occupe pas normalement des échanges entre philatélistes, mais comme elle est la société philatélique nationale du Canada, on lui transmet de nombreses demandes de philatélistes désireux de trouver des correspondants pour échanger des timbres. Ainsi a t elle 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 répondant à ces demandes d'échange.

Francisco José Profito
Rua Sabino de Camargo, 787
Monte Alto - SP
15910-000
Brazil
I am a collector of postal stamps, and as I live in Brazil (in which it is difficult to obtain postal stamps of other countries), I would like to know if it is possible to send me some postal stamps of countries, so I can enrich my collection with the culture of your country. If possible send me stamps to my address.

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by James Gray

The Spink America Auction, New York, April 13, 1999 – Postage Stamps and Postal History of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia

Spink America, a member of the Christies Group, auctioned the spectacular Grand Prix Collection of Mr. Koh Seow Chuan of Singapore on April 13 of this year. Held at the Christies showrooms, 502 Park Avenue, from 2 p.m. prompt, the sale consisted of 300 choice items, all of which were illustrated in colour in a sumptuous catalogue that is certain to become a much-prized item in itself.

Advance billings made it clear that the auction would attract "the world's most serious philatelists," and that total purchases would probably exceed the two-million dollar (U.S.) mark. Individual lot estimates went as high as $260,000, and the lowest, conspicuous by their paucity, as low as $50. In addition, there were the usual 15 per cent buyer's premium (10 per cent for lots over $50,000) and the inevitable sales taxes. All in all, a feast for well-heeled epicures.

In the event, prices paid were much less spectacular than anticipated. Canadian epicures, of course, had the spartan deterrent of the low loonie to curb their enthusiasm, and a similar weakness in other world currencies no doubt played its part. Of the 300 lots offered, in fact, 59 remained unsold. One of these, Lot 80, estimated between $220,000 and $260,000, was a magnificent relic of the famous Dale-Lichtenstein collection – an 1853 manilla cover with a horizontal strip of three one-shilling New Brunswick reddish mauve (Unitrade 3), good to large margins, tied by Saint John, N.B., oval grids, and directed to Pesth, Hungary, via New York, London, and Calais, France. Previously illustrated by Argenti and Robson Lowe, it merited Spink's description as "the famous cover" and a "wonderful item."

Of the unsold Nova Scotia lots, Number 223, estimated between

Lot 223, was called the most famous cover of Nova Scotia philately in the Spink America auction catalogue.

$160,000 and $200,000, was a gorgeous 1852 cover, addressed from Sydney, N.S. to Walter Lawrence Ingles, an officer in the 32nd Regiment stationed at Peshawar, India, just five years before the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny. Endorsed with the mysterious message, "Bombay to be detained," it had reached its destination via Halifax and London at the prevailing rate of 2sh 6p, in this case comprising a Nova Scotia 6p yellow-green, one side cut into, and a lovely pair of the 1sh gold violet (Unitrade 4 and 7 respectively).

Why would such prized items fail to find a buyer? After a brief scrutiny of all 59 of them, I offer some possible reasons:

1) Estimates appeared to be on the high side. When faced with a spread of $40,000, as in the case of Lot 223 (see above), even a wealthy collector would be inclined to take a step back.

2) Citing prices in British pounds from the Stanley Gibbons catalogue can be another deterrent factor, as buyers are aware that these are often unrealistically inflated, even by comparison with the already high Spink estimates.

3) Margins too close for comfort, filing creases that go through the stamps, grubby envelopes, missing or torn flaps, unclear grids, indistinct date stamps, repairs (however skillfully done), various signs of wear and tear, and, in some instances, certificates of authenticity of a very early vintage. While Spink does an excellent job of noting such shortcomings, it could, perhaps, make better allowance for them in the estimates quoted. Lot 42, for instance, New Brunswick 3p dull red (Unitrade 1) – five of them, including a block of four, on a printed, folded insurance circular from Saint John to Fredericton, with ironed vertical creases, two of which cross the block, and the circular trimmed top and bottom, was estimated between $30,000 and $40,000.

Bisects had a particularly bad day at this auction, many remaining unsold. My guess is that collectors have become slightly allergic to them. One quadrisect (Lot 84) – a quarter of the New Brunswick 1sh reddish-mauve (Unitrade 3b), large margin but with a tiny corner crease, on an 1860 folded letter from Edmunston, N.B., to Quebec City, was estimated between $40,000 and $60,000 – apparently, in this instance, based on the Gibbons catalogue price of £20,000. Well tied by a clear Edmunston "12" oval grid, the postage was paid at the prevailing 3p rate: why the Edmunston postmaster could have run out of three-penny stamps has been a matter of some speculation.

The 241 lots that were sold yielded a return of $1,094,879 (U.S.), which included the buyer's premium. The total estimated value of the 59 unsold lots was between $921,550 and $1,155,750, not including the buyer's premium. Thus the total realized fell short of expectations by about 50 per cent. Interestingly enough, the average estimated price of unsold lots was between $15,619 and $19,588, while the average realized price of the lots that were sold was only $4,543. These figures would appear to support my observations on the forbiddingly high estimates.

The lots which seem to have attracted the most competitive bidding were composed mainly of Nova Scotia proofs, die proofs, plate proofs overprinted "specimen," etc. Many of these exceeded the

estimates, particularly the so-called "Goodall" proofs in various colours mounted on card, even when some staining was noted. (In 1858, the American Bank Note Company made proofs on a variety of papers from dies and plates in their possession, and 20 years later, when it was amalgamated with the National and Continental Bank Note Companies, the President, A.G. Goodall, had a number of the proofs reprinted, for reasons that are not entirely clear. One theory is that they were to be used as salesmen's sample sheets to show the type of work the printing firms could produce. In any event, they obviously rank high in the philatelic world, no doubt because of their outstanding beauty and quality).

The highest price paid for a single lot at this sale was $90,500 – Lot 49, a New Brunswick cover from Bathurst, N.B., to Callao, Peru, bearing a 3p dull red bisect, a 1sh reddish-mauve single plus a pair of the same in a paler shade (Unitrade 1b and 3). Though it had rather faint date stamps, and the postage stamps themselves had faults, while the cover had "sympathetically restored corners," the "remarkable franking to a rare destination" (via London and Panama), as Spink described it, evidently persuaded the buyer to pitch his bid between the estimates of $80,000 and $100,000.

One item that went for nearly three times the high estimate was Lot 275 – Nova Scotia 8-1/2 cents green (Unitrade 11a) tied by oval grid to an 1861 folded cover, endorsed "per 'Delta' via San Tomas," from Halifax via Bermuda and St. Thomas to Purerto Rico. The oval grid cancel virtually obliterates Queen Victoria's face, but the uniqueness of the itinerary and destination prompted the buyer to exceed the estimate of $3,000 to $4,000 to the tune of $11,500.

It may be of interest to note that a total of 81 lots (one-third of those sold) went for prices below the minimum estimate, while an exactly equal number, 81, achieved results above the maximum estimate, and 79 lots fell between the minimum and the maximum. Whether this remarkable numerical symmetry pleased the auctioneer we shall probably never know.

All in all, a fascinating sale by a distinguished collector worthy of such predecessors as Argenti, Dale-Lichtenstein, Cartier, Pilkington and Foxbridge. We may not see its like again for a long, long time. ✤

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PHSC

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

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

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by Raconteur

Editor's note: *This story is an example of how history, stamps and a personal experience can be combined to make for an interesting read. The refreshing information offered appeals to both stamp collectors and non-collectors.*

One of the most dazzling examples of the splendid Moorish architecture still existing in Spain today is The Alhambra, whose name is most probably derived from the Arabic *al-hamra* which means "the red (house)".

It was built by Moorish princes as a fortress on a spur overlooking the Darro River, at their capital, Granada, in south-

ern Spain. But within the red brick walls of the fortress they built a sumptuous palace. It was begun in 1248 by Mohammed I and later expanded, altered and redecorated by his successors.

The year that Columbus sailed for the New World (1492, remember?), their Catholic Majesties King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ordered their armies to expel the Moors from their land.

The Alhambra was the Moors' last stronghold in Spain. But they were unable to withstand the all-out assault upon them, and after the Spanish victory Cardinal González de Mendoza planted a silver cross on The Alhambra's highest tower: Christianity had replaced Islam in all of Spain.

In 1526, Charles V tore down the south wing and a gatehouse and started to make its small mosque into a palace. The work was never finished, but it does sport a superb round court.

In 1812, the French blew up some of the towers, and an earthquake in 1821 caused more damage. Over the years The Alhambra began to crumble.

No one did much to preserve it until the American writer, Washington Irving, went to live in Spain for a while. He wrote a book, *The Alhambra* which stirred people to save the beautiful structure from becoming a ruin. Restoration began in 1828 and continued into this century.

Today, one can stroll through its arcades of stilted and horseshoe arches, with moulded plasterwork, resting on exceedingly slender marble columns which run around the courts.

Doorways are slittered arches leading into rooms entirely covered with ornaments and exquisitely decorated. Water is used abundantly, rising in fountatins in most rooms and arcades. The most celebrated of these is the Court of the Lions.

The water gushes from the mouths of the lions, flowing into open channels which reflect the long myrtle hedges of the Alberca, or Court of the Pool.

The backdrop to Granada and The Alhambra are the majestic, snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountains. They were depicted as Russia's Ural Mountains in the film, *Dr. Zhivago*.

A visit to The Alhambra is an experience never to be forgotten, but these stamps of Spain help to keep the memories refreshed!

Coming Events / Calendrier

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

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

REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

SEPTEMBER 25, 1999: Milton Stamp Fair, at the Milton Seniors Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., Milton, ON, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (905) 878-1533 or (905) 878-9076, e-mail: alman@globalserve.net

OCTOBER 23, 1999: Brantford Stamp Club annual exhibition and bourse at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St., Brantford, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 23-24, 1999: VANPEX '99 at the Empire Landmark Hotel, 1400 Robson St., Vancouver, BC. Exhibition and Bourse sponsored by the British Columbia Philatelic Society. For more information contact: Show Chairman, Maurice Guibord, 101-1537 Charles St., Vancouver, BC, V5L 2T2. Call (604) 253-9311, e-mail: mguibord@direct.ca

OCTOBER 30, 1999: Barrie District Stamp Club's 38th Annual Exhibition and Dealers' Bourse at the Sunnidale Community Centre, Sunnidale Road, Barrie, ON, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 12 dealers, free admission, lunch counter. For more information: Lew Metzger, P.O. Box 1113, Stn. Main, Barrie, ON, L4M 5E2; or call (705) 721-8354.

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

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

SEPTEMBER 16-18: BNAPEX '99 sponsored by the British North American Philatelic Society in Vernon, BC. Top level exhibits for Society members, spousal activities, planned visits to area wineries, scenic and historical tours, awards' banquet and bourse. For more information: BNAPEX '99, #203-1139 Sutherland Ave., Kelowna, BC, V1Y 5Y2, or call (250) 861-1106 or e-mail: lee@silk.net

October 15-17, 1999: Toronto National Postage Stamp Show, at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON. Hours are: Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-4p.m. Stamp marketplace - featuring dealers from Canada and the United States. Stamps, postcards, postal history and supplies. Canada Post Corp., stamp displays, youth activities and door prizes. For information call (416) 979-3335. Dealers registrations now being accepted. New dealers welcome.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

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.

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

2000

MAY 22-28: 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.

2001

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

NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

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

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

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

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

Individual/Individuel

I-26954 Barry J.E. Scott
123 Konini Road
Titirangi, Auckland
NEW ZEALAND

I-26955 W. Barry Miller
600 Deerwood Drive
Hanwell, NB E3E 1C5
e-mail: drbmillr@nbnet.nb.ca
INTERESTS: Canadian Mint, Mint Sheets, Singles, Corner Blocks

I-26957 Gisela Laubitz
16 – 1375 Southdown Road, #809
Mississauga, ON L5J 2Z1

I-26958 Marie-Solange Leveille
444 Desaulniers
St. Lambert, QC J4P 1N4

I-26959 Kimber Wald
2949 Duvall Road
Woodbine, MD 21797
USA

I-26960 John Hamilton
615689 Hamilton Lane, RR 6
Markdale, ON N0C 1H0
e-mail: jhamilton@bmts.com

I-26961 Sarah Muwasinghe
6/5 Welimada Road
Bandarawela, Sri Lanka

I-26962 Sandra Foss
Box 1109
Cochrane, AB T0L 0W0

I-26963 Larry Davidson
26 - 121 University Ave. E.
Waterloo, ON N2J 4J1

I-26964 Shakeel Ahmad
11 Windham Lp., Apt. 4DD
Staten Island, NY 10314
USA
e-mail: shakeelny@aol.com

I-26965 Cecil Ball
e-mail: crjbsc@hotmail.com
INTERESTS: King George VI

I-26966 Michael Pinchbeck
26 Horseshoe Drive
Whitby, ON L1N 8E9
e-mail: mpinchbeck@spanit.com

I-26967 James Maloney
6172 Tudor Lane
Loves Park, IL 61111
USA

I-26968 Rose Parker

I-26969 Julian Grant
87 River Street
Toronto, ON M5A 3P4
e-mail: jgrant@tcn.net
INTERESTS: Early Canada, UK

Deceased / Nécrologie

Baines, C.W. (HL-412) Kingston, ON
Holmes, Arthur H. (I-21437) Maddington, AUSTRALIA
Mills, William (I-6806) Montreal, QC

Change of Address / Changement d'adresse

Sidney Stamp Club (C-26665)
2277 Frost Avenue
Sidney, BC V8L 1P7

Club Philatélique 'Les Timbres' de Boisbriand (C-26591)
480 rue Chavigny
Boisbriand, QC J7G 2J7

Union Philatelique De Montreal (C-3)
Loisies St. Mathieu, 711D – 8e ave.
Montreal, QC H2A 3C4

Atkinson, Kenneth (I-25871)
P.O. Box 1308
Crossfield, AB T0M 0S0

Berry, Brian (I-20047)
3044 Harvey Cres.
Mississauga, ON L5L 4W1

Bressler, Clifford W. (I-26149)
336 - 1190 Landsdowne Drive
Coquitlam, BC V3E 1J7

Burega, Paul Michael (L-18049)
1 Bridle Path
Canton, MA 02021, USA

Cornwall, Tim (I-26006)
19 - 32 Sukhumvit, Soi 65
Bangkok, 10110
Thailand

De Ment, Lex C. (I-9272)
1153 Windrush Drive
Oakville, ON L6M 1S9

Dobson, F. Ronald E. (I-25545)
12 Forest Ridge Crescent, RR #1
Limehouse, ON L0P 1H0

Hamel, Denis (L-19184)
100 - 300 Saint-Georges
Saint-Lambert, QC J4P 3P9

Miller, W. Barry (I-26955)
600 Deerwood Drive
Hanwell, NB E3E 1C5

Paul, Gary (I-23752)
157 Northwoods Cr.
Cornwall, ON K6H 6X3

Pendon, Frank E. (I-22737)
6180 Silken Laumann Way
Mississauga, ON L5V 1A3

Perry, Robert L. (I-25557)
P.O. Box 228, Goedenwold Drive N.W.
Calgary, AB T3A 5R9

Pollock, Christina M. (I-23382)
151 Pinnacle Way
New Hampton, NH 03256
USA

Predelli, Giorgio (I-26489)
1360 St. Jacques # 510
Montréal, QC H3O 4M4

Talacko, Emil J. (I-19571)
P.O. Box 339
Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0

Tattrie, Donald M. (I-22594)
26 Discovery Avenue
Cardiff, AB T8R 1N5

Wong, Shey Kum (I-26108)
17E - 6128 Petterson Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5H 4P3

AJAX PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

AMICALE des PHILATÉLISTES de L'OUTAOUAIS

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 p.m. Bilingual and bi-province meetings in Hawkesbury, ON and Lachute, QC. 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. à 21h. Section junior: Tous les samedis matin de 9h. à 11h; au Centre socio-culturel de Boisbriand, 480 rue Chavigny, Broisbriand, QC, J7G 2J7; information: Louis-Georges Dumais (450) 979-7371; Jacques Charbonneau (450) 430-6460.

BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

RPSC Chapter 73 meets 2nd Wednesday of each month except July and August at 7:30 pm at Parkview Centre, 189 Blake St., Barrie. Table auction at every meeting. Visitors welcome. Contact: Sec.-Treas. Lew Metzger, Box 1113, Barrie, ON, L4M 5E2.

BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

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

BRANTFORD STAMP CLUB

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL PHILATELY (CAFIP)

Chapter 76, Jan Bart Judaica Study Group, meets 2nd Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7 p.m., at Lippa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, ON. Contact: Joseph Berkovits, 33 - 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, M5A 1N1. Tel.: (416) 635-1749.

COLBORNE STAMP CLUB

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

CREDIT VALLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY - MISSISSAUGA

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

DELTA STAMP CLUB

Chapter 138 meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (except June through August) at 8 p.m. 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 p.m., at Archbishop MacDonald High School, south entrance cafeteria, 142 St. and 108 Ave. Correspondence: Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Information: 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 p.m., program at 8 p.m. Lots of parking; all visitors are welcome. Information: Essex County Stamp Club, c/o David L. Newman, 1165 Wigle Ave., Windsor, ON, N9C 3M9, (519) 977-5967.

ETOBICOKE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 78 meets at Fairfield Centre, 80 Lothian Way, Etobicoke at 7:30 p.m., 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 p.m. Visitors always welcome. Information from the President: Margaret Allen, R.R. 1, Fenelon Falls, ON, K0M 1N0.

FREDERICTON DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

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

FUNDY STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB

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

GREATER VICTORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 32 meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay. Circuit books, auction and special programs prevail. Membership $8 per year. Visitors welcome. Information: Don Dundee, 928 Claremont Ave., Victoria, BC, V8Y 1K3, (604) 658-8458.

HAMILTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 51 meets at 6 p.m. on 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays, September to June except holidays, and 2nd Monday of July, at Bishop Ryan Secondary School, Quigley Road and Albright Street, in east-end Hamilton, ON. Visitors and juniors welcome. Information: Clare Maitland (Secretary), Box 60510, 673 Upper James St., Hamilton, ON, L9C 7N7; e-mail: stamps@hwcn.org or visit their website at: www.hwcn.org/-ip029

KAWARTHA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 58, meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through June (excluding 4th Tuesday in December and June). Meetings 7 p.m. 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 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Information from Secretary: Mr. Allan Burk, 43 Sudbury Dr., Chatham, ON N7L 2K1.

KINGSTON STAMP CLUB

Chapter 49 meets 2nd Monday, September-May and 4th Monday, September-November and January-April, at 7 p.m., Regional Correctional Staff College, 443 Union St. W,. Kingston, (NE of intersection with Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd.). Free parking, wheelchair accessible, visitors always welcome. Information: Past President, Kingston Stamp Club, 1960 Hwy. 2 East, Kingston, ON, K7L 4V1, (613) 546-3332.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 13 meets 2nd Thursday every month (except July and August) at Albert McCormick Arena, Parkside Dr., Waterloo. Visitors welcome. Information: Betty J. Martin, P.O. Box 43007, Eastwood Square Post Office, Kitchener, ON, N2H 6S9, (519) 578-7782.

LAKEHEAD STAMP CLUB

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

LAKESHORE STAMP CLUB - CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE DE LAKESHORE

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

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

LETHBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

MEDICINE HAT COIN AND STAMP CLUB

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

MIDDLESEX STAMP CLUB

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

MILTON STAMP CLUB

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

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 p.m. (Basement meeting room.) Table auction and sales circuit. Visitors are always welcome. Information: John Fretwell, R.R. 1, Callandar, ON, P0H 1H0, (705) 752-1364.

NORTH 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 TORONTO STAMP CLUB

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

NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB

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

OAKVILLE STAMP CLUB

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

OTTAWA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Chapter 16 meets every Thursday at 7 p.m., September through May, at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON. Visitors are always welcome. Information: Pres. Alf Dyer, (613) 731-6155; P.O. Box 65085, Merivale Postal Outlet, Nepean, ON, K2G 5Y3.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191 meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, 149 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound, ON. Activities include trading, auctions, circuit books. 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 p.m., regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Speakers, mini auctions, draw prizes, contests, dealers. Information: Gib Stephens, P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8.

PENTICTON AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Chapter 127 meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the United Church Hall, 696 Main St., Penticton, BC. 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 p.m. at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa ON, K1H 7X7. Visitors welcome. Information: (613) 733-5100.

REGINA PHILATELIC CLUB

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

ROYAL CITY STAMP CLUB

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

SAINT JOHN STAMP CLUB

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

ST. CATHARINES STAMP CLUB

Meetings are 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month (except for July and August) at the Holy Cross Secondary, St. Catharines, ON. Information: Mrs. Sinclair, 25 Permilla St., St. Catharines, ON, L2S 2E9.

ST. JOHN'S PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

SASKATOON STAMP CLUB

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

SIDNEY STAMP CLUB (SIDNEY, BC)

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

LA SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE QUÉBEC

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

STRATFORD STAMP CLUB

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

SUDBURY STAMP CLUB

Chapter 85 meets 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.

THE PHILATELIC CLUB OF MONTREAL

Chapter 122 meets 3rd Thursday of each month (starting September), at 7:30 p.m. at Le Manoir, 5319 Notre Dame de Grace (corner Decarie Blvd.), Montreal. Contact: Lloyd Slaven, 1079 Emerson Cres., Chomedy, QC, H7W 1H6; e-mail: lslaven@macten.net .

TORONTO HARMONIE STAMP CLUB

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

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

UNION PHILATÉLIQUE DE MONTREAL

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

VANCOUVER ISLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

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

WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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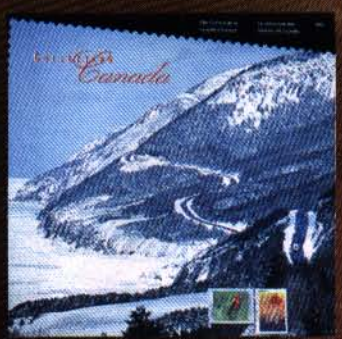

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