# The Canadian Philatelist
# Le Philatéliste canadien

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Revue de LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

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# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
# LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Join The RPSC!***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Joignez-vous à La SRPC***

# Membership Application
# Formulaire d'adhésion

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The information collected on this form will be used for communications from The RPSC Office and its authorized suppliers. The Society publishes the name of each new member in *The Canadian Philatelist*. Your member information will be held confidential by the Society and will never be sold or traded to advertisers without your prior consent. If you have any questions, please contact The RPSC Office at 1-888-285-4143.

L'information fournie dans ce formulaire nous permettra de vous faire parvenir la correspondence de La SRPC et ses fournisseurs autorisés. La Société publie le nom de chaque nouveau membre dans *Le philatéliste canadien*. La Société assure la confidentialité de vos renseignements et s'engage à ne jamais les vendre ou les échanger auprès de fournisseurs et/ou d'agents de publicité sans avoir obtenu votre autorisation. Pour tous renseignements supplémentaires, veuillez communiquer avec La SRPC au 1-888-285-4143.

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Signature Date

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La cotisation couvre une période de douze mois à partir de la date de publication initiale et/ou donne droit à six numéros du *Philatéliste canadien*. Payable en devises canadiennes si résident au Canada et en devises américaines (ou leur équivalent en dollars canadiens) autrement. Des adhésions à vie sont aussie disponibles.

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Journal of The
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Revue de La
SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

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## the cover / page couverture:

The stamp on our cover commemorates the founding of Québec City and pays homage to the city's first buildings, to Samuel de Champlain and to the native population that inhabited the area. It depicts a scene of the bustling activity at the site that Champlain, the city's founder, called the Habitation. Québec, derived from the Algonquin word Kebec, means "where the river narrows."

In 1985 UNESCO declared Québec City a World Heritage Site as the "Historic District of Old Québec." Today, Québec City is Canada's oldest city and one of the oldest in North America.

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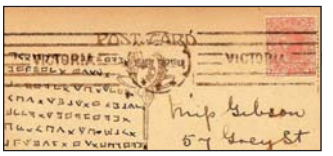
Le timbre qui apparaît sur la page couverture commémore la fondation de Québec, présente les premiers édifices de cette ville et rend hommage à Champlain et à la population autochtone qui habitait la région. Il décrit une scène grouillante d'activités sur le site que Samuel de Champlain, le fondateur de la ville, appelait l'Habitation. Québec vient du mot algonquien kebec qui signifie « passage rétréci ».

En 1985, l'UNESCO a déclaré l'Arrondissement historique du Vieux-Québec site du patrimoine mondial. Québec est la plus ancienne ville du Canada et l'une des plus anciennes de l'Amérique du Nord.

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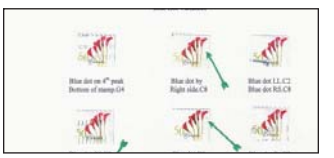

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# EDITOR'S notes
# notes du RÉDACTEUR

*by / par Tony Shaman, FRPSC*

Thankfully we do not get many letters of complaint from readers but in the few that we do receive we sometimes detect a sense of frustration on the writer's part. This frustration may be something that is common to most, perhaps all, large organizations including The Royal. Because of the involvement of many individuals in running our Society, it is understandable that members who may have only an infrequent need to deal with Society business may be unfamiliar with the machinations of The Royal and not know whom to contact to resolve a particular query or problem.

Unfortunately there is no one central telephone number, e-mail or mailing address to which requests can be directed. To help alleviate some of the frustration experienced by members, it may be helpful to review, very briefly, who does what and where members should send specific requests for assistance.

First, let me remind readers that all contact information is listed in each issue of the magazine although some of it may need a bit of searching. For example, the contact information dealing with display ads is not always found on the same page in each issue. The reason is that feature articles differ in lengths from one issue to the next, thereby necessitating the placement of the display ad instructions on a page with available space.

Most contact information can, however, be found in the same place in each issue. Consistently placed information includes the names of the Board of Directors and Duty Officers along with their e-mail addresses. This information appears on the first inside page; a more detailed list of Departments and Committees follows on the second inside page.

All editorial-type material, such as full-length features and other articles, letters to the editor, and philatelic news items should be sent to your editor. Request for classified or display ads should be sent to Jim Szeplaki, as shown on the masthead page. Information that is to appear on your Website should be directed to your Webmaster, Robin Harris.

National Office is responsible for all record-keeping and other aspects of Society business. For that reason any address change, either an individual member's or a chapter's, should be sent to the National Office as should show dates, show locations and similar information. National Office collates all such updates and

Il est rare, heureusement, que nous recevions des lettres de plainte des lecteurs, mais lorsque cela arrive, elles laissent parfois transparaître un sentiment de frustration chez leur auteur. Ce genre de frustration est probablement commun à la plupart, sinon à toutes les grandes organisations, y compris La Royale. Puisque la bonne marche de notre société dépend de nombreuses personnes, il est compréhensible que les membres qui n'ont pas souvent affaire à elle ne soient pas familiarisés avec ses rouages et ne sachent pas à qui s'adresser pour une demande particulière ou pour résoudre un problème.

Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas un numéro de téléphone central ni une adresse postale ou électronique où les demandes peuvent être acheminées. Afin d'atténuer un peu la frustration de nos membres, il serait peut-être utile de revoir, très brièvement, qui fait quoi et où les demandes particulières d'aide devraient être envoyées.

Premièrement, permettez-moi de vous rappeler qu'il y a une liste de toutes les coordonnées utiles dans chaque numéro de la revue, même s'il faut parfois chercher certaines d'entre elles. Par exemple, les coordonnées de la personne à qui s'adresser pour les grandes annonces ne se trouvent pas toujours sur la même page d'un numéro à l'autre. Cela s'explique par le fait que les articles de fond ne sont pas tous de la même longueur, ce qui nous oblige à placer les instructions relatives aux grandes annonces sur une page où il y a de la place.

Cependant, la plupart des coordonnées se trouvent au même endroit dans chaque numéro. Ainsi, les noms et les adresses de courriel des membres du conseil d'administration et du personnel sont toujours sur la première page intérieure. Une liste détaillée des services et des comités suit, sur la seconde page intérieure.

Tout ce qui est de type rédactionnel, les lettres au rédacteur en chef, les nouvelles philatéliques ainsi que tous les articles de fond et autres, doivent être expédiés au rédacteur en chef. Les demandes pour une grande annonce ou une annonce classée doivent parvenir à Jim Szeplaki, tel qu'il est indiqué sur la page du bloc générique; et l'information à inclure au site Web doit être envoyée à notre webmestre, Robin Harris.

Le Bureau national est responsable de la tenue des dossiers et d'autres aspects des affaires de la société. Dès lors, tout changement d'adresse, qu'il s'agisse d'une adresse personnelle ou de celle d'un club membre, doit être transmis au Bureau national. Il en est de même des dates et des lieux d'expositions ou de tout autre renseignement du même

forwards them to be published in each issue of the magazine.

By following these suggestions members' frustrations in dealing with Society business will, we hope, be mitigated. Let's try them and see what happens.

*******

In the last issue, Richard Logan's article looked at the phenomenal impact that the series of Harry Potter books have had on children's reading habits. Although J.K. Rowling's books have set record sales worldwide, there have been other children's books with a lasting literary legacy. One of these is Lewis Carol's *Alice in Wonderland*. In this issue, Michael Peach looks at this much-beloved tale and the author who penned it.

Letters carried in air ships, notably on the Hindenburg and the Graf Zeppelin, appeal to collectors, especially when they are associated with the Olympic Games. The article by Ken Lewis deals with a cover, perhaps one that is unique, that combines both collecting specialties.

Because we ran out of space in the previous issue of the magazine we were forced to split two feature articles. The concluding parts of Precancelled Canadian Stamps by Joseph Monteiro and Secret Messages on Postcards by Dale Speirs are included in this issue.

George B. Arfken, FRPSC, and William S. Pawluk investigate letter rates to the United Kingdom. And Joseph Monteiro in his article entitled "Mythical Beings from the Top of the World" looks at the myths and legends as personified by monsters, dragons, ghosts, goblins, sirens and trolls that form part of the folklore of Europe's Nordic countries.

We hope that you will enjoy the greater variety of editorial content made possible in this issue now that the dozen pages of requisite "official business" material included in the last issue has been dispatched. Happy reading! ✉

genre. Le Bureau national recueille ces mises à jour et les fait publier dans chaque numéro de la revue.

Nous espérons que le fait de suivre ces instructions contribuera à réduire la frustration qui survient quand vous avez affaire à la société. Mettons-les à l'essai et attendons la suite.

*******

Dans le dernier numéro, Richard Logan s'intéressait à la portée phénoménale de la série Harry Potter sur les habitudes de lecture des enfants. Bien que les livres de J. K. Rowling aient enregistré des records de ventes, d'autres livres pour enfants constituent un héritage littéraire impérissable. Parmi eux, *Alice au pays des merveilles*, de Lewis Carol. Dans le présent numéro, Micheal Peach nous parle de ce conte merveilleux et de son auteur.

Les lettres transportées par voie aérienne, notamment, dans le Hindenburg et dans le Graf Zeppelin attirent les collectionneurs, surtout lorsqu'elles sont associées aux Jeux olympiques. Ken Lewis, pour sa part, s'intéresse à un pli, peut-être unique, qui réunit la collection des deux spécialités.

Comme l'espace manquait dans le numéro précédent, nous avions dû diviser deux articles de fond. Ainsi, vous trouverez dans le présent numéro, la conclusion de « Precancelled Canadian Stamps », par Joseph Monteiro et de « Secret Messages on Postcards », de Dale Speir.

George B. Arfken, FSRPC, et William S. Pawluck étudient le tarif lettre au Royaume-Uni. Joseph Monteiro, dans son article intitulé « Mythical Beings from the Top of the World », se penche sur les légendes et les mythes personnifiés par des dragons, des fantômes, des gnomes, des sirènes et des nains du folklore des contrées du nord de l'Europe.

Nous espérons que vous aimerez la grande variété d'articles du présent numéro, rendue possible parce que nous avons publié la douzaine de pages de nécessaires « d'affaires officielles » dans le dernier. Bonne lecture! ✉

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF *THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST* IS MAY 22, 2008.**

**For further information contact Jim Szeplaki, (905) 646-7744 ext 223; jims@trajan.ca**

**LA DATE LIMITE POUR SOUMETTRE VOTRE PUBLICITÉ POUR *LE PHILATÉLISTE CANADIEN* EST LE 22 MAI, 2008.**

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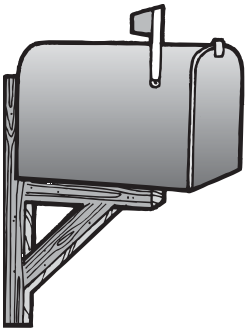

# in the MAILBOX
# dans la boîte aux LETTRES

## CHECK IT OUT

Dear Editor,

The internet address www.exponet.info includes a permanent, international, non-competitive exhibition named EXPONET. It is intended as a public display of high quality exhibits of all philatelic areas and time periods.

The aim of the organizers of EXPONET is to provide a permanent presentation of high-quality exhibits so as to facilitate on-line study for visitors throughout the world. We do not intend to compete with traditional classical exhibits but rather to enable on-line viewing to everybody regardless of distance and thus take part in the support and propagation of philately.

We turn to you with a request for your support of this project in your geographic region. We will be grateful for every form of support or calling attention to EXPONET, and particularly for helping bring exhibitors to this showcase. Your support will be key to our efforts, since you are the country's prime philatelic representative.

**Best regards,**
**Milan Cernik & Bretislav Janik**

# EXCHANGE
# demandes D'ÉCHANGE

Dear Sir

My name is Kleber de Burgos, I live in Recife (northeastern shore of Brazil). I kindly ask for your help, and would appreciate if you could send my contact info. (below) to topical philatelists, who might be interested on trading mint and/or used stamps of birds. My main collection is of water birds, nevertheless I collect any birds that are found in the Americas (north, central, and south). I would prefer to trade in small quantities, on a one-on-one basis basis.

**I thank you beforehand,**
**Kleber de Burgos**
**Rua Visconde de Ouro Preto, 79**
**52061-430 Recife-PE**
**BRAZIL**
**kleberburgos@gmail.com**

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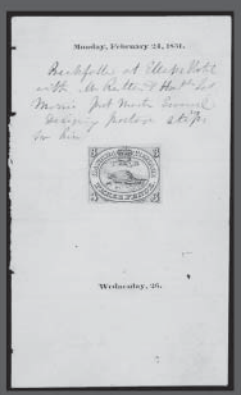

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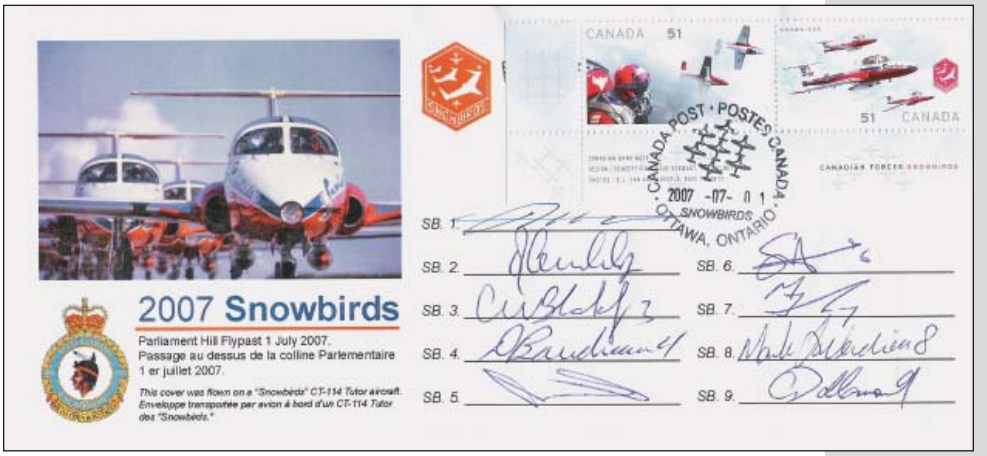
The pictured, autographed Snowbird envelope was flown over Parliament Hill, Ottawa, on July 1, 2007 for the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society. The cover bears the two 51-cent stamps issued in 2006 to honour Canada's Snowbirds. A special Canada Post Snowbird pictorial handstamp was used to cancel the pair of stamps.

Information on the availability of the cover and the 2007 full colour Snowbird brochure is available from Richard Malott, Major, (Retd) at 16 Harwick Crescent, Nepean, ON K2H 6R1 or by e-mail at: rmalott@magma.ca




## Vatican Philatelic Society Website

Collectors of Vatican stamps have access to a very professional looking Website at www.vaticanphilately.org that provides a number of services that many philatelic societies can only envy.

Contained in the site is information about recent Vatican City stamp issues, an extensive reference section that includes an Italian-English philatelic glossary (an English-Italian glossary is slated to be added), the sole Vatican City postal rate charts on the Web, a link to a second VPS online project known as VatiStamps, along with information about other services offered by the Society.

Visitors to the site can also view exhibits created by VPS members and read articles from the Society's journal, Vatican Notes.

## News from Iceland

Postphil Iceland has announced its philatelic releases for the last quarter of 2007 as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| A New Bible Translation | 20-09-2007 |
| Wild Berries | 20-09-2007 |
| The Royal Visit of 1907 | 20-09-2007 |
| SEPAC – The Jokulsa Canyon | 01-10-2007 |
| Cranefly and Birch Aphid | 08-11-2007 |
| Bicentenary of the Birth of Jonas Hallgrimsson | 08-11-2007 |
| Kleppur Psychiatric Hospital 100th Anniversary | 08-11-2007 |
| Christmas Stamps – Icelandic Leaf Bread | 08-11-2007 |

## Ken Lewis is Geldert Medal winner for 2007

James Kraemer, FRPSC and chairman of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (TRPSC) committee for the Geldert Medal, has announced that Ken Lewis of Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom has been awarded the Geldert Medal for 2007. The Geldert Medal is given annually for the best article or series of articles in *The Canadian Philatelist*, journal of the society.

Lewis was chosen the Geldert winner by the judges for seven articles in the journal last year. The Geldert jury was impressed with Lewis's output. It is not often that *The Canadian Philatelist* publishes seven articles by the same author in one given year. Over the years, Lewis has been a very prolific contributor to the RPSC journal.

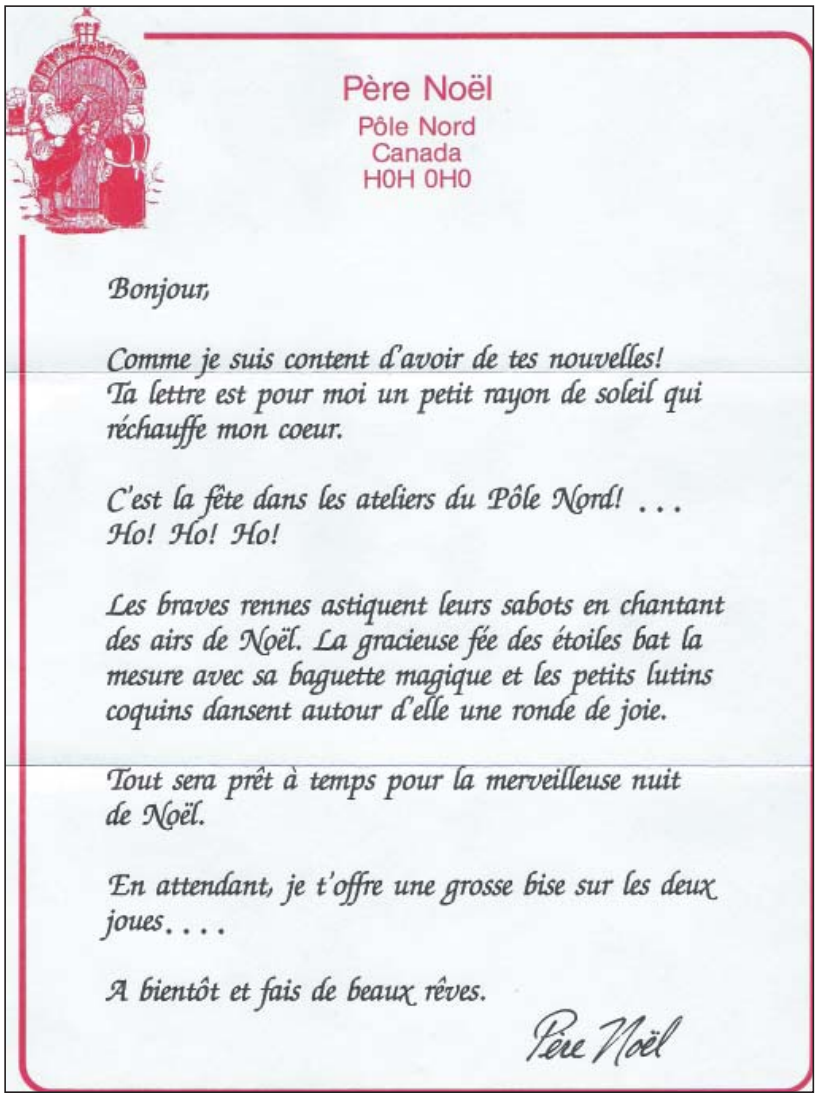
## Honoured for 50 Years as Member

Dr. Don Welsh being presented with his 50-year membership certificate. He is wearing the 50-year medal. *Photo by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC.*

## French Santa letter poses new questions

Pictured here is a French-version Santa letter uncovered by Earle Covert, Canada's leading expert and collector of Canada Post Santa Letter-Writing Program material. Prior to Covert's discovery of this letter, collectors believed that only English versions of this particular series of letters existed, as reported on page 340, Vol. 58, No. 6, in the November-December 2007 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*.

Collectors now have to rethink the categorization of this letter series. It could well belong to the post national-era letters, as opposed to letters in use locally before Canada Post took the Santa Letter–Writing Program national in 1982.



Père Noël
Pôle Nord
Canada
H0H 0H0

*Bonjour,*

*Comme je suis content d'avoir de tes nouvelles! Ta lettre est pour moi un petit rayon de soleil qui réchauffe mon coeur.*

*C'est la fête dans les ateliers du Pôle Nord! . . . Ho! Ho! Ho!*

*Les braves rennes astiquent leurs sabots en chantant des airs de Noël. La gracieuse fée des étoiles bat la mesure avec sa baguette magique et les petits lutins coquins dansent autour d'elle une ronde de joie.*

*Tout sera prêt à temps pour la merveilleuse nuit de Noël.*

*En attendant, je t'offre une grosse bise sur les deux joues. . . .*

*A bientôt et fais de beaux rêves.*

*Père Noël*

A smiling Andrew Oleksiuk — winner of the American Philatelic Society's 2007 Ernest A. Kehr "Future of Philately" Award — mans the Stamps for Kids booth at the annual Taste of Chicago food festival. Photo courtesy Randall Sherman.

## New British Library Philatelic Collections Web Pages

The British Library is pleased to announce that new and revised web pages for the Philatelic Collections have recently been launched and includes many additional images.

The web site offers a full description of the 50 collections or archives held, with details of their scope and coverage. An alphabetical index of collections, countries and subjects helps the researcher find the appropriate material. For the visitor to the major permanent Philatelic Exhibition details of the display may be found with opening times. An on line section of Philatelic Rarities may be seen at: www.collectbritain.co.uk/collections/philatelic/ A range of background information includes articles about certain collections, philatelic literature (including the Crawford Library) philatelic conservation and other materials held by the British Library for the philatelist.

The new web pages will be found at: www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic

## Andrew Oleksiuk Receives 2007 Kehr Award

Andrew Oleksiuk, of Chicago, Illinois, has won the American Philatelic Society's 2007 Ernest A. Kehr "Future of Philately" Award. Established in 1991, the Kehr Award recognizes a philatelist who, for at least five years, has made philately attractive as a hobby to newcomers, worked directly with newcomers, especially young people, or developed and administered programs to recruit newcomers. The award is named for Ernie Kehr, long an activist and patron in the field of junior philately. Kehr was the author of *The Romance of Stamp Collecting* in 1947, which had a major impact on two generations of new collectors.

The award was presented to Oleksiuk by APS Deputy Executive Director Ken Martin and Chicago Philatelic Society President Larry Kobelt in a brief ceremony on November 18 at Chicagopex 2007. At age 40, Oleksiuk is believed to be the youngest winner of this honor in its 17-year history.

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# Secret Messages on Postcards

## Part Two

*By Dale Speirs*

### Substitution Ciphers: Quick And Easy Cribbing.

I looked at another postcard used in 1906 in New York State, shown in Figure 9. This used pseudo-letter symbols, but was ridiculously easy to break. I did it in less than five minutes after setting up the spreadsheet for it. The method I used here was cribbing. The first word was five letters with a doubled letter in it. Using the context of the postcard, it could only be "hello". It was addressed to a Miss Evelyn Judson, so an easy guess for the second word was "dear". In minutes, I had the message, bad grammar and all, as: "Hello, dear. How is things up there? You can read this when you get the key."

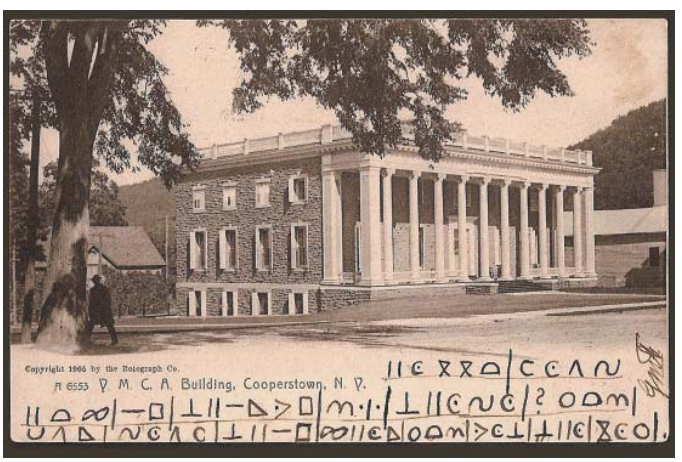


Figure 9: Postcard, New York State, 1906, with substitution code.

### Substitution Ciphers: A Long Message.

At the CALTAPEX 2004 bourse, I bought a Canada postal card used in Ontario in 1883, addressed to Miss Macdonald, Drayton, Ontario (Figure 10). The dealer had marked it as a calligraphic message, which was nonsensical because calligraphy is a specialized method of handwriting, not a code or alphabet. Again I set up a spreadsheet to decode, and because this was a relatively long message I was able to crib it quite well. On this card, the vertical rows of three dots obviously separated the words. I took the first word as "Dear". In English, a single-letter word is either "I" or "a". The body of the text began with a single-letter word, so this was cribbed as "I". There were some two-letter words in the text. When I filled in the first four letters as "Dear", the computer automatically filled in one of those two-letter words with the second letter "e". This gave a second crib, the word "me". Elsewhere, a four-letter word was filled in by the computer as "_ard", which suggested that the first letter was "c", to produce the word "card". And so forth.

The raw decrypt read: "Dear you. I want you so send me a card as soon as you receive this and tell me just when yo intend going. I shall write you a long letter when I get your crd. Send it to Mount Uleasant. I was afraid to send a letter till I heard from you as you might be awaye before my lettr got to Drayton. Good bye. Helen". The corrected decrypt, taking into account obvious transcription errors, is: "Dear you. I want you to send me a card as soon as you receive this and tell me just when you intend going. I shall write you a long letter when I get your card. Send it to Mount Pleasant. I was afraid to send a letter till I heard from you as you might be away before my letter got to Drayton. Good bye. Helen"

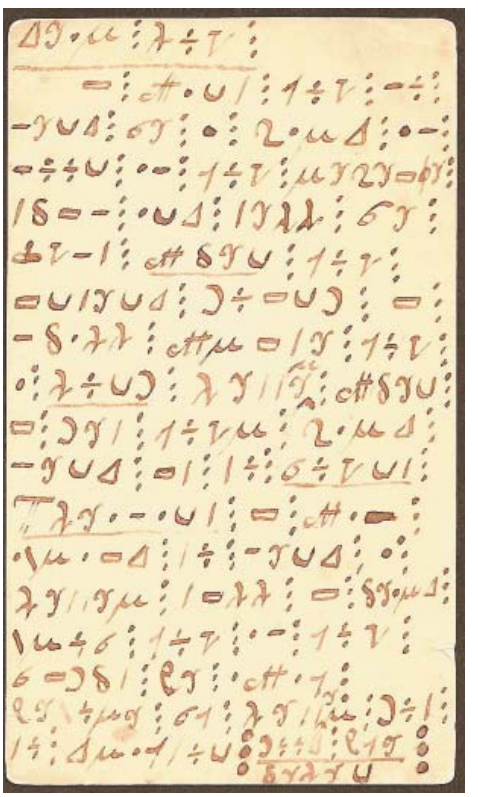

Figure 10: Postcard, Ontario, 1883, with substitution code.

The message is innocuous, and hardly seems worth the trouble of encoding, but it may have been done so for fun. If the sender had been a man, it might have been coded because the recipient's father did not approve of her swain. I hope for the sake of Miss Macdonald that the long letter mentioned in the message was not coded.

## Substitution Ciphers: A Mixed Message.

The postcard shown in Figure 11 has its message written in cipher upside-down on the card. I don't think this was any added precaution against a postie who could read substitution ciphers at sight, but rather it enabled more room for the writer to start her message. This postcard was sent between two Nova Scotians in 1911, from Dolly to Jack. The message had many mistakes and some obviously dropped words, so Dolly wasn't an expert at this. Additionally, some of the words are written in the clear. It reads: "Friday evening, June 2, 1911 Dearest Jack: Your welcome letter received today. Hope I will get this as I go away. Am sending your mother a card today. She got one you sent her last Monday. It has been quite cold here today. Am feeling awfully tired. I hope I will [undecoded word] while away. Hope I will have a good lick. Don't suppose you know how long I will

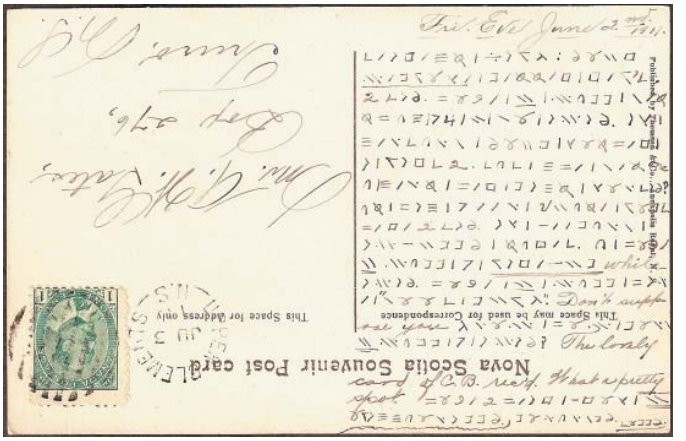


Figure 11: Postcard, Nova Scotia, 1911, with substitution code in a mixed message.

be away? The lovely card of Cape Breton received. What a pretty spot. Hope to her mom. I occasionally [word dropped out of sentence]. Lovingly Dolly"

## Substitution Ciphers: The Courtship Of Miss Gibson.

I was fortunate enough to buy a batch of several postcards (Figures 12 to 15) written by a young man courting a woman he had apparently met at the University of Melbourne, which he mentions once in

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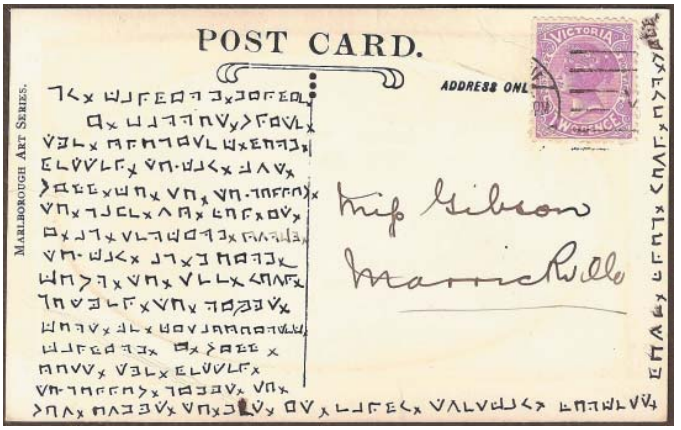

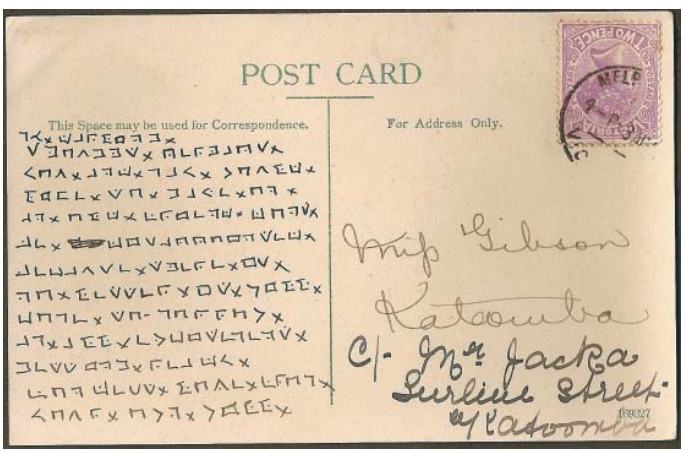


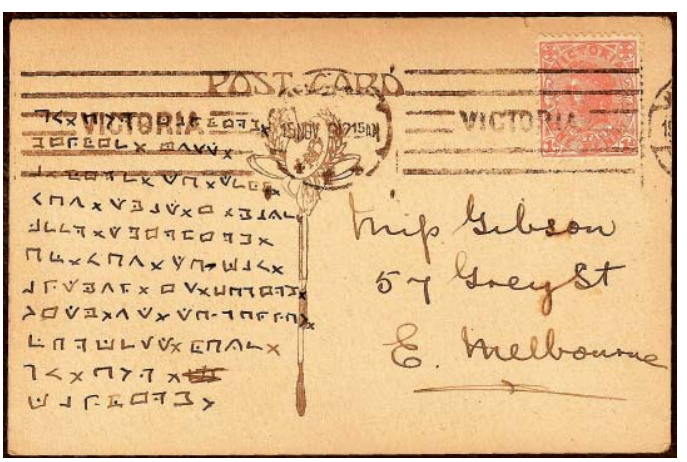


his ciphered messages. The postcards were mailed in 1901, but are undated by the writer. Because they are embossed view cards, the postmark strikes are often incomplete because the hammer was not striking a level surface. As a result, I am not certain that I present them in the correct order of mailing. In this case, it seems clear that the encryption was to avoid Mr. Gibson Senior's prying eyes. It also appears from the decrypted text that there was at least one rough passage in the courtship of Miss Gibson.

## Speedwriting: Decoding Barney.

The postcard shown in Figure 16 was mailed in New Zealand in 1901, and its coded message stymied me. It doesn't help that the writer had sloppy handwriting and did not lift the pen from paper when forming letters. Each letter has another letter superscripted to it. It might have been a keyphrase code but I wondered if it could be some form of speedwriting. I checked the usual references, both on cryptography and shorthand/speedwriting, but nothing similar was evident.

One of my correspondents, Sue Jones, of Shrewsbury, England, solved it for me. She wrote: "I can't say I have fully solved it, because I think it is inherently unsolvable. You were stumped because you expected consistency and a single solution. I got a few bits, decided it was the work of a boy amusing his cousin, or some such, and continued from there. Barney, the sender of the postcard, simply used the

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

Figure 12: Postcard, Australia, 1901, to Miss Gibson. Message reads: "My darling girlie I cannot write the promised long letter today but will do so tomorrow. To make up for it I am sending PUNCH [the humour magazine] today. Am going down to see your mother tonight. Don't be disappointed darling. I will post the letter tomorrow night so you ought to get it early Tuesday. Fondest love from your own Will. [this line goes vertically up right side of postcard]"

Figure 13: Postcard, Australia, 1901, to Miss Gibson. Message reads: "My darling Your letter arrived today and will be answered tonight. You have quite misunderstood my action about cockatoo. You darling are not the only one that gets misunderstood. I am disappointed that you have taken it the way you have. Believe me darling what I did was done with you as the central thought. I will write fuller tonight. [this line goes vertically up right side of postcard] Fond love from your misunderstood Will. [this line goes upside-down across top of postcard]"

Figure 14: Postcard, Australia, 1901, to Miss Gibson. Message reads: "My darling Thought perhaps you and May would like to gaze on an old friend. Don't be disappointed because there is no letter. It will come tomorrow a.m.. All excitement getting ready. Fondest love from your own Will." The first sentence may refer to the view side of the postcard, which shows Melbourne University.

Figure 15: Postcard, Australia, 1901, to Miss Gibson. Message reads: "My own darling girlie. Just a line to tell you that I have been thinking of you today. Arthur is coming with us tomorrow. Fondest love my own darling."

Figure 16: Postcard, New Zealand 1901, with speed-written message.

first and last letters of each word. It is not a true cipher or code; it can only be guessed from context. He's not entirely consistent either, even allowing for his bad handwriting. I read this:

Dear N e [Nellie at a guess] Please don't read the blue writing I didn't do that only the red I love red ink don't you Nice and warm looking. I put in one of [?the(se) ?Secret? B-b] It said [Blue? B-g(scribble)] If you do not understand this bring it to Aunty and say (well I can find the find?) out for you. Love to all from Barney"

This impressed me because Sue had only seen a black-and-white photocopy. I hadn't thought to mention that the message was written entirely in red ink because I didn't think it was important. There is no blue ink on the postcard.

## Summary.

In breaking secret code messages on postcards, there are some basic principles that will speed up the work. Firstly, the code is almost certainly a substitution cipher, since that is the simplest method for most people. It is possible that a secretary may send a message in shorthand or stenography, but those are quickly recognizable as Pitman, Gregg, or other styles of shorthand.

Secondly, do not expect good grammar, spelling, or handwriting. People who send coded postcards usually do it as a lark, and are not experienced at it. Transcription errors are common, so after you get the raw decrypt, you may have to arbitrarily smooth out the spelling or grammar, no matter what the code suggests. Expect decrypt errors on your part from trying to read bad handwriting. It is also the case that postcard writers lose track of their message since they cannot quickly glance back at their previous sentences. This results in stilted sentences or phrases that ordinarily would be subconsciously edited out by someone writing a normal sentence.

The best method of decoding a postcard message is by cribbing, since most are not long enough to give a good letter frequency analysis. Look for a month and date at the head of the message, or stereotyped phrases such as "Hello" or "Dear". If the postcard is addressed to a Miss, expect stereotypes such as "love you".

People sending coded messages seldom are sending anything actually important enough to encode. Like computer nerds who only go online to discuss computers, coders seem to only write "I am sending you this coded message". If addressed to a woman, there is a high probability that it will be some lover gushing about how he misses her. ✉

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# MYTHICAL BEINGS
## *from the Top of the World*

*By Joseph Monteiro*

### I. Introduction

Mythology and folklore are part of our history and culture from ancient times. It is believed to unite people in some mystical manner. This is particularly true of countries that have common ties and are faced with severe climatic conditions where nature often presents unexpected and catastrophic events. Exploiting this belief, Nordic countries have issued their second series of stamps since they formed their alliance in 2004. This Nordic alliance is formed from a union of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Äland, Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

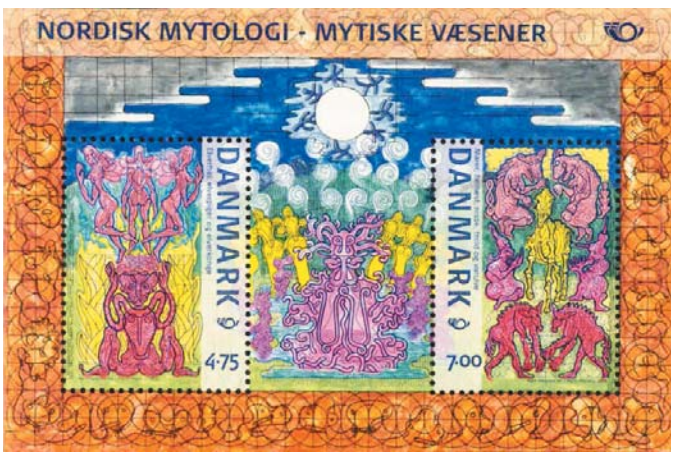
The second issue consists of eight souvenir sheets from the new alliance issued on March 29, 2006 on Nordic mythology with its theme as Mythical Beings. The souvenir sheets are shown in the illustrations. They display the artistic talents from the above-mentioned countries and should delight stamp collectors seeking unique designs. The myths are retold in illustrations on the stamps and in a companion text in the folder. The text accompanying the souvenir sheet is in the language of its respective country printed in English and in German.

### II. Mythical Beings

According to Nordic folklore, mythical beings have existed from time immemorial. They both scare and fascinate mankind. It holds that "the existence of these beings served as an explanation for most natural phenomena and was also practical in child upbringing." Albeit scary, these creatures offered a sense of safety at a time when unknown natural forces wreaked havoc. In one way or another, most mythical beings bear a resemblance to man but always have some distinctive feature. The appearance of a mythical being was considered an omen of some kind.[1] Nordic mythology has always included creatures that both frighten and fascinate people – from tiny dwarfs to giant trolls. The mythical creatures that populate landscapes are seldom visible in the daylight, preferring to appear at night instead. Their uncanny powers allow them to change the course of human lives.

With the development of science, many of these mythical beliefs are now regarded as folklore. On occasion, one turns to them when scientific explanations fail to satisfy us for the events at hand.

**Denmark:** The souvenir sheet issued by Denmark depicts a number of mythical creatures. The motif for the sheet with two stamps (4.75 and 7.00 DKK) is a mythical moonlight landscape. The stamp on the left depicts an elf king and three elf girls. Elves are the best-known mythical creatures. The stamp on the right depicts two incubi, the ghost horse flanked by a goblin and a troll, and two were wolves at the bottom. The illustration in the middle of the sheet is of the 'marsh woman', surrounded by will-o'-the wisps and sprites. Technical details: Artist: Bjørn Nørgaard; Engraver: Martin Mörck; Method of printing: Intaglio/offset; and Printer: Post Denmark, Stamps.

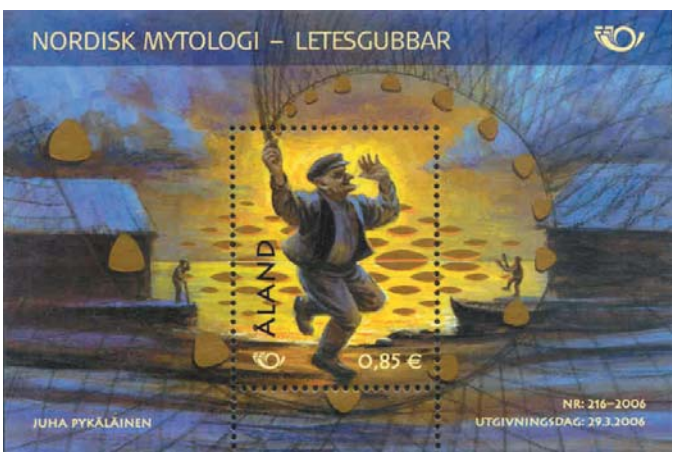



**Sweden:** Mythical forest beings is the theme for the souvenir sheet issued by Sweden. The two stamps on the sheet (2x10 Kr) are shown against a background of the forest, dancing girls and animals. The stamp on the left depicts the beautiful and seductive Siren of the Woods with a glimpse of her foxtail behind her back. By tradition, she has a tail or a hollow back. She also possesses the many beasts of the forest. The stamp at the right shows

Necken playing a passionate tune from his heart on his fiddle. It shows him tearing his heart out in despair. Necken (Näcken) is a dangerous supernatural water-being. He was perceived as dangerous as he was thought to try to drown people. One of his other qualities is that he was considered to be a highly musical being. Those that dance to his music are said never to be able to stop. Technical details are as follows: Artist: Nina Bondeson with typography by Gustav Mårtensson; Engraver: Martin Mörck; Method of printing: Steel engraving and four-color offset; and Printing House: Sweden Post Stamps.

**Norway:** Sami, a shaman, a drum and the dragon Fåvne are depicted on a two-stamp (A and 10.50 NOK) Souvenir sheet issued by Norway. As legend has it, a shaman, the sorcerer placed a small ring on the drum and hit it with a hammer to work himself into a trance and predict the future. Fåvne killed his father in a fight over a gold treasure. To guard it, he turned himself into a dragon and lay on top of it. To retrieve this treasure, Sigurd, the King's son, slew Fåvne with a sword called a Gram. Technical details are as follows: Design and engraving: SverreMorken; Printing method: Recess/offset and Printer: Joh Enschedé.

**Finland:** Fairies and elves in the woods are depicted on a two-stamp souvenir sheet issued by Finland. According to Finnish legend, fairies and elves dwell in the woods and dance at dawn in the glades. The stamp (0.65 euro) on the left shows a fairy in the woods and the stamp (0.65 euro) on the right shows a fairy dancing with an elf in the woods. Technical details: Artist: Pekka Piippo and Antti Raudaskoski (Original design Amer Foundation); Printing method: Offset; Printer: Joh Enschedé.




**Äland:** 'Letesgubbar', so called little men making noises are depicted on a souvenir sheet with one stamp (0.85 euro) issued by Äland. Letesgubbar are mythical beings who could be found in the archipelago. They lived near fishing villages and were often short in stature. They were friendly to human beings and warned people of upcoming storms. By banging on walls, jangling and throwing objects they tried to attract people's attention. Technical details are as follows: Artist: Juha Pykalainen; Method of printing: 5-colour Offset; and Printer: The Lowe Martin Group; Paper: 102 gm2; and Perforation 13 per 2 centimetres.

**Greenland:** A two-stamp (7.50 and 13.50 DKK) Souvenir sheet depicting 'Mother of the Sea and

Mistress of the Wind' was issued by Greenland for this series. The stamps are shown against a background of fish and mammals found in that region. "The Mother of the Sea used to play an important part in ancient Inuit culture as she was allegedly in control of all marine mammals. Our forefathers used to say the weather was much better in the old days when Asiaq, Mistress of the Wind, was constantly wandering in order to find herself a husband, thereby providing good weather all the time."[2] Technical details are as follows: Designer Linda Riber Sorensen; Typography: Droit Olsen; and Printer: Joh Enschedé.

**Iceland:** Hidden beings are depicted on a souvenir sheet with one stamp (95 ISK) issued by Iceland. Tales of elves and fairies are considered to be a distinct branch of mythology. Accordingly, elves and hidden beings originate in the heavens or in the earth. They take human form and are gregarious beings with power to see into the future. Often one may catch a glimpse of them wearing colourful clothes. Snorri's Edda tells of friendly fairies outshining the sun in their brightness and beauty. Technical details: Designer: Dagur Hilmarsson EnnEmm; Painting: Johann Briem; Printing Process: 5-colour Offset lithography; and Printer: Joh Enschedé.

**Faroe Islands:** The souvenir sheet issued by Denmark depicts Sjódreygil (Sea Ghost) and Norns. It contains two stamps (2x7.50 Kr). The Sea Ghost is one of the more scary creatures in Faroese folklore. It often beseeched fishermen and asked them to take him with them. According to legend, the Faroese Norns (deities of fate) were tiny little creatures. Their footprints ('Noraspor') appear as white spots on the nails of people. Technical details: Designer: Anker Eli Petersen; Printing method: Offset; and Printing House: Osterreichische Stastsdrukerei.

## III. Concluding Remarks

The Top of the World of Stamps Alliance has come up with several fascinating designs for its second series. The theme, Mythical Beings, shows artistic paintings of several Nordic myths on the stamps of the souvenir sheet from each of the eight members of the Nordic Alliance. These paintings are intriguing, sometimes charming and sometimes absurd if you fail to grasp their meaning. Third and final issue of the Top of the World of Stamps Alliance is scheduled for 2008. Collectors can also buy the souvenir sheet contained in the folder by writing to the various Nordic countries mentioned at the beginning of this article. ✉

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1. Top of the World of Stamps Folder, 2/3, March 29, 2006.

**Footnotes:**

1. Back of folder, Top of he World of Stamps Folder, 2/3, March 29, 2006.
2. Third page in folder, Top of he World of Stamps Folder, 2/3, March 29, 2006.

# Northern Airways

*By Trelle A. Morrow*

Northern Airways was formed in 1932 by George Simmons of Carcross, YT, and served many parts of the Yukon, Northern British Columbia, and parts of Alaska. Over the life of the company, in the 1930s and '40s, several aircraft were obtained and several pilots engaged:

Robert Randall in 1934 flew the airmail route to Telegraph Creek.

Pat Callison was flying the *Fairchild FC-2W2* (later traded to Grant McConachie for his *Tri-Motor Ford*).

George Simmons flew all the aircraft himself. In 1934 he purchased a *Fokker Super Universal, CF AAM,* from CM&S. In 1937 he purchased a new *Waco* to compete for air mail.

Northern Airways was known in the Prince George area because in 1937 there was some competition between this company and Grant McConachies's United Air Transport over a proposed airmail route from Vancouver to Whitehorse. George Simmons had already established himself as a competent carrier due to earlier airmail contracts while McConachie had also

Northern Airways was formed in 1932 by George Simmons and Everett Wasson of Carcross, YT. It carried Second Class mail from Carcross to Atlin 10 times per year. An airmail contract was secured in 1934 and extended the service to Telegraph Creek. Robert Randal was pilot for the first official airmail flight between Atlin and Telegraph Creek, November 19, 1934.

established an airmail route from Edmonton, Fort St. John and Whitehorse.

The competition for the airmail route apparently became rather political as Simmons had his brother Aubrey, the recipient of several government appointments, pulling for the interests of Northern Airways. On the other hand, McConachie was an Alberta-based organization and he felt some B.C. input would be desirable to nail down the B.C. air mail route to the Yukon. He, therefore, amalgamated with Ginger Coote Airways which at the time operated in the south Cariboo and several coastal areas. Colonel Coote, Ginger Coote's father, also had a lot of political clout and as it turned out the airmail route, Vancouver to Whitehorse, was awarded to United Air Transport.

Prince George in the 1930s was establishing itself as an air services distribution centre and we find that Northern Airways made a trip in 1939 to pick up an aircraft engine that had been delivered to Prince George by surface transport. So, even though based in Carcross, aviation distances shrank the globe and became a factor in the economic development of the Central Interior of British Columbia. ✉


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# CANADIAN LETTER RATES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1870 - 1875

*George B. Arfken, FRPSC and William S. Pawluk*

In late 1869, the United Kingdom and the United States had agreed that half-ounce letters between them would be charged 6 cents or 3 pence stg. This was 2 cents or 1 pence stg for the inland postage of each country and 2 cents or 1 pence stg for sea postage. This led to a sharp reduction of the rates for Canadian letters to the U.K. The basic references for this and subsequent developments are the Duckworths [1] and Arnell [2].

**Dramatic Rate Reduction.** On January 1, 1870, the postal rate for Canadian covers going to the United Kingdom via New York or Boston was reduced from 15 cents per half oz. to 8 cents per half oz. including a U.S. transit fee of 2 cents. This is often called the Cunard rate. The rate for Allan Line covers going from Quebec or Portland, Maine was reduced from 12½ cents per half oz. to 6 cents per half oz. In 1859 the U.S. had agreed to free transit, Portland to Montreal, for incoming Allan packet mail [2, 165]. The Canadian government presumably absorbed the transit charge for Canadian outgoing mail from Montreal to Portland. The registry fee, which had been 8 cents since February 1, 1866, continued at 8 cents. These rates and fees are shown in Table 1.

| Date | Allan Line * Quebec, Portland | Cunard Line * New York, Boston | Registration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 1, 1870 | 6 cents | 8 cents | 8 cents † |
| Oct. 1, 1875 | 5 cents ** | | |

Table 1. Letter Rates per half ounce to the U.K., 1870 - 1875

* Modifications are discussed below.
** Reduced to 2 cents, Dec. 25, 1898, Imperial Penny Postage
† Reduced to 5 cents, Jan. 1, 1878.

The cover of Figure 1 illustrates the new Allan rate. Allan packets used Quebec when the St. Lawrence was navigable and Portland when it was not. Allan packets shifted from Portland to Halifax for their winter port in December 1876 when the Intercolonial Railway was completed.

Figure 1. From Hamilton, January 19, 1870, addressed to London, England. The cover was carried by the Allan North American out of Portland, January 23, 1870 and unloaded at Londonderry, Northern Ireland, February 2 [3].

Allan packets unloaded the mail at Londonderry at this time. The mail for England and Wales proceeded by rail on the Kingstown - Holyhead ferry to England and by rail to either Liverpool or London. The reason for this was that trains were faster than ships.

The 6-cent Allan rate was paid with a 6-cent Large Queen. While the 3-cent Small Queen had just been issued, January 1870 Small Queen covers are rare. The 6-cent Small Queen did not appear until 1872.

Figure 2 shows an 8-cent Cunard cover. Cunard had been sailing from New York on alternate Wednesdays, alternating with Boston. As January 1870 approached, the U.S. Post Office offered the shipping lines the new sea postage, 2 cents instead of the old 8 cents. Cunard refused this offer and was moved from the favoured Wednesday to Thursday. Most Canadian covers going out of New York were mailed Monday and, for some months, were carried by a Guion packet. This cover just happened to be mailed on Tuesday and arrived in New York for the Cunard Siberia sailing on Thursday.

Figure 2. Posted in Montreal, September 13, 1870 and addressed to London. With the endorsement Cunard Steamer and 8 cents in Large Queens, there was no need to add "England". The cover was carried out of New York by the Cunard *Siberia* and unloaded at Queenstown, southern Ireland on September 26.

Since November 1859, Cunard had unloaded mail at Queenstown, southern Ireland. Then, for mail to England, Scotland and Wales, it was rail, the Kingstown - Holyhead ferry and rail to Liverpool or London. Again trains were faster than ships.

**First Packet Principle.** On November 22, 1856, British Postmaster General Rowland Hill had ordered that British mail going to Canada would go on the first packet to leave, whether Cunard (British) or Allan (Canadian) unless there was an endorsement calling for a specific line. The Canadian Post Office quickly adopted this principle for Canadian covers to the U.K..

Figure 3. Posted in Peterboro, Ont., Monday, October 24, 1870 and addressed to Ireland. A 6-cent Large Queen paid the Allan rate. The next Allan packet would sail from Quebec, October 29. Following the First Packet Principle, the cover was sent to New York for the Guion Manhattan, scheduled to sail on Wednesday, October 26. The Guion Line had been given Cunard's Wednesday sailing dates for accepting the new, reduced sea postage starting January 1, 1870.

By going through New York, the cover was liable for the 8-cent rate (often called the Cunard rate) and was 2 cents underpaid. The Canadian Foreign Exchange Office stamped the cover with a bold 1 for due 1 British penny. There was no penalty because the 2-cent deficiency was the result of a Post Office decision, not carelessness of the sender.

**Sanctity of Endorsements.** Under the heading "Sanctity of Personal Route Endorsements," the Duckworths wrote, "Such endorsements were respected by postmasters, even if earlier sailings were available. Some apparent exceptions to this practice exist." [1, 385]. The covers shown in Figures 4 and 5 were exceptions.

Figure 4. Mailed in Toronto, February 28, 1870 and addressed to Scotland, this cover was endorsed "By Bremen Line"and paid 9 cents (1 cent over) for the rate sailing from New York. Ships of the Bremen Line (North German Lloyd Line) sailed from New York to Bremen, Germany with a stop at Southampton, England. The Bremen *Union* would sail from New York March 5. The Allan *Peruvian* would sail from Portland, Allan's winter port, March 6. The endorsement was disregarded and the cover sent to Portland possibly because Scotland was better served by the Allan Line, possibly because this meant that Canada paid the sea postage to the Allan Line rather than to the Bremen Line.

Allan mail for Scotland was unloaded at Londonderry and sent by rail to Belfast and then by ship to Greenoch, Scotland, the port for Glasgow. This route and the sailing date are confirmed by the Glasgow Packet handstamp.

The Large Queens had been issued in 1868 and 1870 covers to the United Kingdom were almost always franked with Large Queens. By mid-1871 the 1-cent and 3-cent Small Queens were making a strong appearance. The 2-cent and 6-cent Small Queens appeared in 1872. The 1874 cover of Figure 5 shows the 8-cent Cunard rate paid with four 2-cent Small Queens. An 8-cent stamp would have been convenient but there was no 8-cent stamp until 1893.

The cover shown in Figure 5 was endorsed "P Mail from Boston." The Montreal postal clerk discovered that the Cunard *Cuba* would sail from New York three days before the Cunard *Parthia* would sail from Boston. In the interest of faster service, the endorsement was disregarded and the cover sent to New York.

Figure 5. Posted in Montreal March 2, 1874 and addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The cover was carried by the Cunard *Cuba* out of New York March 4, 1874 and offloaded in Queenstown March 15. There are Liverpool 16 MR 74 and Edinburgh MR 16 74 date stamps.

Figure 6 shows a block of six 2-cent Small Queens paying double the 6-cent Allan rate for up to one ounce. This franking of an Allan cover may be unique.

Figure 6. Mailed in Halifax, March 8, 1875 and addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The cover was carried by the Allan *Hibernian* out of Halifax, March 9. Mail was unloaded at Queenstown, March 19.

**A Different Allan Contract.** This was not the Allan contract to carry Canadian mail to the U.K. This was a British contract for runs between Halifax and Queenstown, NOT Liverpool. Halifax had been served by the Cunard steamers going to and from Boston. Cunard did not wish to continue interrupting its runs to and from Boston so, in January 1868, the Inman Line was awarded a contract for fortnightly runs between Halifax and Queenstown. The Allan Line took over this service July 1, 1871. This is why the Liverpool transit stamp identifies the *Hibernian* as BR PACKET, a packet sailing under British contract. The Liverpool 20 MR 75 confirms the Queenstown date, March 19, of the sailing tables [2] and [4].

The preceding six covers are all regular covers. Now, we turn to a registered cover, Figure 7.

Figure 7. Registered in St. Catharines, Ont., June 18, 1870 and addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The cover was held for the Allan *Prussian* that would sail from Quebec, June 25 and reach Londonderry, July 5. It was carried by the Glasgow packet, JY 5 1870. Apparently the Canadian Post Office felt that covers to Scotland should be sent by the Allan Line and the Glasgow Packet and that this took precedence over the First Packet Principle.

This cover was franked with 20 cents in stamps to pay 12 cents postage (double the 6-cent Allan rate) and 8 cents registration. It's interesting that the franking includes the 15-cent Large Queen and then 5 cents in Small Queens. The 15-cent Large Queen was the highest denomination postage stamp from 1868 until 1893 when the 20-cent and 50-cent Widow Weeds were issued. During the period covered by this article, only 13 registered covers to the U.K. franked with Large and Small Queens have been recorded [5].

**A Preferred Rate, A Provisional Stamp.** In 1874 representatives of 21 countries met in Berne, Switzerland and formed the General Postal Union as an international agency and recommended a basic international rate of 25 centimes per 15 grams (5 cents per ½ oz.) Canada did not attend the Berne Conference. Colonies and Dominions were not invited. France and Spain blocked Canada from membership in this Union. In response, Britain offered Canada a 5 cents per ½ oz. rate for letters to the U.K. from all U.S. and Canadian ports effective October 1, 1875. This was a preferred rate, a special rate between Canada and the U.K.

There was no 5-cent stamp but a plate had been laid down for a 5-cent Large Queen. The 5-cent Large Queen was rushed into production as a provisional issue. Figure 8 shows a double rate cover paying this new rate with the new 5-cent Large Queen.

Figure 8. Mailed in Toronto, November 22, 1875 and addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The cover was carried by the Cunard *Bothia* out of New York, November 24. George Brown, the writer of this letter, was a Father of Confederation and editor of *The Globe*. This is part of an extensive correspondence of George Brown with his wife.

Seven of the figures shown here have been taken from Firby Auction catalogues, the Menich sale of June 2000 and the Arfken sale of May 1997. We are grateful to Chuck Firby for his permission to use his photographs.

**Endnotes**

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# 1936 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

*By Ken Lewis*

The 1936 Olympic Games were opened by German Chancellor Adolf Hitler, who used the games to promote the German Zeppelin industry by having the airship *Hindenburg* (LZ-129) continually fly over the stadium during the opening ceremony. During the late 1920s and early 1930s the world had an insatiable appetite for anything to do with the airship industry, so linking it with the popularity of the Olympic Games made an ideal promotional opportunity. It was known that the opening ceremony, including pictures of the *Hindenburg* circling the stadium, would both attract and enthral cinema and television audiences from around the world. To this end the German government had the Olympic Rings painted on the front section of the *Hindenburg* fuselage as shown on the postcard in Figure 1. This is the story of the three flights of the *Hindenburg*, 32nd, 33rd, and 34th, and the mail it carried during the 1936 Olympic Games held August 1 - 16, 1936.

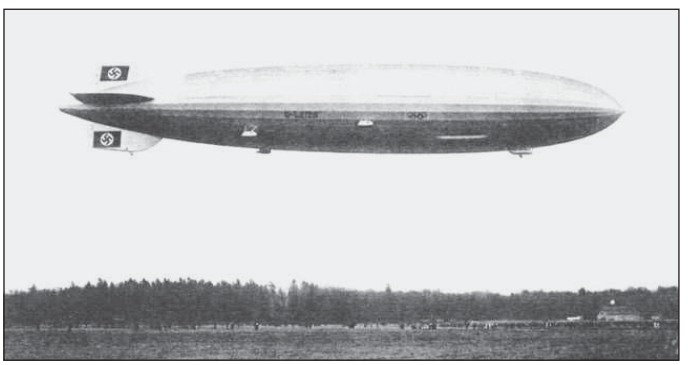


Figure 1.

Every flight that the *Hindenburg* (LZ-129) and *Graf Zeppelin* (LZ-127) made each year, whether it was return or one way, was listed as a separate flight in chronological order. These annual lists always started at flight number one rather than a continuation of the previous year's flights. Once the airship had landed at its destination that was the end of the flight and the next flight, even if it was a return flight, was classed as another separate flight. We mention these details to clarify the flight numbers that appear throughout this article.

## The Olympic Village

The Olympic Village was located at Doberitz, 65 miles (104 kilometres) from Berlin so that the athletes would have the quiet and privacy to practice their sports. Had the village been built closer to the stadium area, the facility would not be readily available because of the noise and lifestyles associated with capital cities. The Olympic Village resembled a colony of villas situated in the beautiful Brandenburg landscape where the view was of forests, green meadows, and a solitary moor. This gave the athletes peace and solitude that was reflected by the location of the village in a lovely valley by a lake reminiscent of nature at her best. Close to the Olympic Village was the main arterial road running between Berlin and Hamburg. The German army assisted the Olympic organisers in getting the athletes to the stadium in plenty of time for them to prepare for and participate in their event.

## The Flights

### Olympic flight

To commemorate the 1936 Olympic Games there was a special flight by the *Hindenburg* that continued throughout the official opening ceremonies. The *Hindenburg* took off at 7:13 a.m. on August 1, 1936 and landed at 4:22 p.m. that day after flying a distance of 1,622 kilometres, circling and crisscrossing the stadium. The purpose of the flight by the *Hindenburg* was to promote the new airship and to carry mail to provide visitors with a philatelic memento of the Games. Figure 2 illustrates a postal stationery card carried on the flight. On the left side of the postcard front is an artist's impression of a portion of the stadium. The top right corner has the 10pf (6+4pf) printed postage stamp. The stamp is

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the 32nd flight of the *Hindenburg* in 1936 with the Berlin handstamp at the top left. The red cachet showing the official Olympic flag with its signature rings has been applied close to the centre of this card. Figure 3 shows the back of the card which has seven of the *Hindenburg* Medallion issue definitive stamps totalling an extra 44 pfennige. It is considered that this extra 44 pf consisting of the 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 pf denominations was the charge for mail carried on this promotional flight.

## Germany - North America flight

A set of eight stamps, costing a total of one Reichsmark and 92 pfennige, including a charitable donation of 79 pfennige, were issued on May 9, 1936 to commemorate the 11th Summer Olympic Games. The complete set can be seen on the cover shown in Figure 4. All of these Summer Olympic Games stamps have been cancelled with the special Olympic Village postmark that reads 'BERLIN OLYMPISCHE DORF/XI Olympiade 1936' and dated August 1, 1936. This cover was specially printed for posting at the Olympic Village on the opening day. At the top left corner is the inscription indicating that this cover had been posted at the Olympic Village to be carried by the airship '*Hindenburg*' (LZ-129) to Lakehurst, New Jersey from where it would be passed into the postal system of the United States for onward delivery to the addressee. A red cachet with white lettering that reads 'MAIL VIA AIRSHIP HINDENBURG' is located below the address. Also on the front is one of the special Registration etiquettes from the Olympic Village that has been affixed at the centre of the cover, indicating that this particular cover was the 90th item of registered mail to be sent from the village. At the lower right is the cachet of the Europe-North America flight, which, incidentally, was the 33rd flight of the Hindenburg in 1936, in the usual red ink.

Figure 5 shows the back of this cover and three handstamps. Two of these handstamps are from the Registration Division of New York and dated August 8, whereas the other is a receiving mark for Madison Square Station from where the mail was distributed in the usual way to addresses in New York. The 33rd flight departed from Frankfurt-am-Main at 7:29 p.m. on August 1, and landed at Lakehurst, NJ at 10:55 p.m. on August 8, 1936 after flying a distance of 8,100 kilometres.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

## USA - Germany flight

The return flight, (the 34th), of the *Hindenburg* departed Lakehurst on August 10, 1936 at 2:34 a.m. and landed at 9:26 p.m. on August 11, after travelling 6,732 kilometres, at Frankfurt-am-Main. It was quite normal for the return flight to be considerably less in distance and over a shorter time than the outgoing flight as it depended upon the number of scheduled stops and favourable wind conditions.

The standard airmail cover shown in Figure 6 has a total postal charge of 70 Canadian cents, made up as follows: 5 x 10c, 1 x 6c, 1 x 5c, 2 x 3c, 1 x 2c, and 1 x 1c (from different issues). This 70-cent charge comprises of the following charges:

60 cents – weight up to one-half ounce (½ oz.) and covers the following services:

- Air mail conveyance within Canada
- Air mail conveyance within the USA
- Air mail conveyance across the Atlantic Ocean [via the airship Hindenburg (LZ-129)]
- Air mail conveyance within Germany

10 cents – registration fee

At the top left corner of the cover is the red typewritten instruction, 'By German Airship "*Hindenburg*" / Via New York.' In the centre are two blue cachets: the topmost of the two is a boxed 'AIR MAIL' handstamp; the lower one is the registration etiquette of the Postal Station 'C', Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. All of the stamps are cancelled with a single circle postmark from Postal Station 'C' Vancouver and dated August 6, 1936. Station 'C' opened on June 1, 1916 at 3100 Main Street. The cover was addressed to Mr. Robert Frese, Niederswehren, (Nr. Kassel), Schutzenstrasse, Germany.

The back of this cover is shown in Figure 7, and has five backstamps as follows: two of Station 'C' (the same as the postmark) dated August 6, 1936, which were applied at the time of registration; a normal Vancouver transit mark dated August 6; one of the New York Foreign section dated August 8; and the German receiver of Niederswehren (Kassel) dated August 12, 1936. Also on the back is a label (acting as a seal) complete with the address of the sender, a Mr. George Fawkes, who resided in Vancouver, British Columbia.

According to the publication *Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, of the 74 mail items from Canada carried on the *Hindenburg* during the month of August 1936 only three originated from Vancouver. There were two *Hindenburg* flights from Lakehurst to Germany during August. The first (34th) departed on the 10th whereas the second (36th) departed on August 20, 1936. Which of the other two covers was carried on either of these flights is unknown but it is certain that this particular cover was carried on the 34th. Should the other two mail items have been carried on the second flight then the cover shown in Figures 6 and 7 would have to be classified as unique. Regardless of whether or not the other two covers will ever show up, this cover nevertheless remains a Canadian postal history rarity.

Unfortunately the cover has a vertical fold which luckily does not affect any of the stamps. Rarities such as this, three at most but quite possibly unique, do not come onto the open markets very often and obtaining it was quite a scoop.

## Conclusion

Collecting airmail material carried on the *Graf Zeppelin* and *Hindenburg* is a highly contested field. Some of these items are extremely elusive. This story of three flights that took place during the height of the popularity of airships shows the colourful history behind three ordinary-looking postal history items. ✉


## Acknowledgements

*Grateful thanks are extended to William G. Robinson, FRPSC, and Colin Lewis, FCPS, for their kind assistance.*

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

# Red Calla Lily

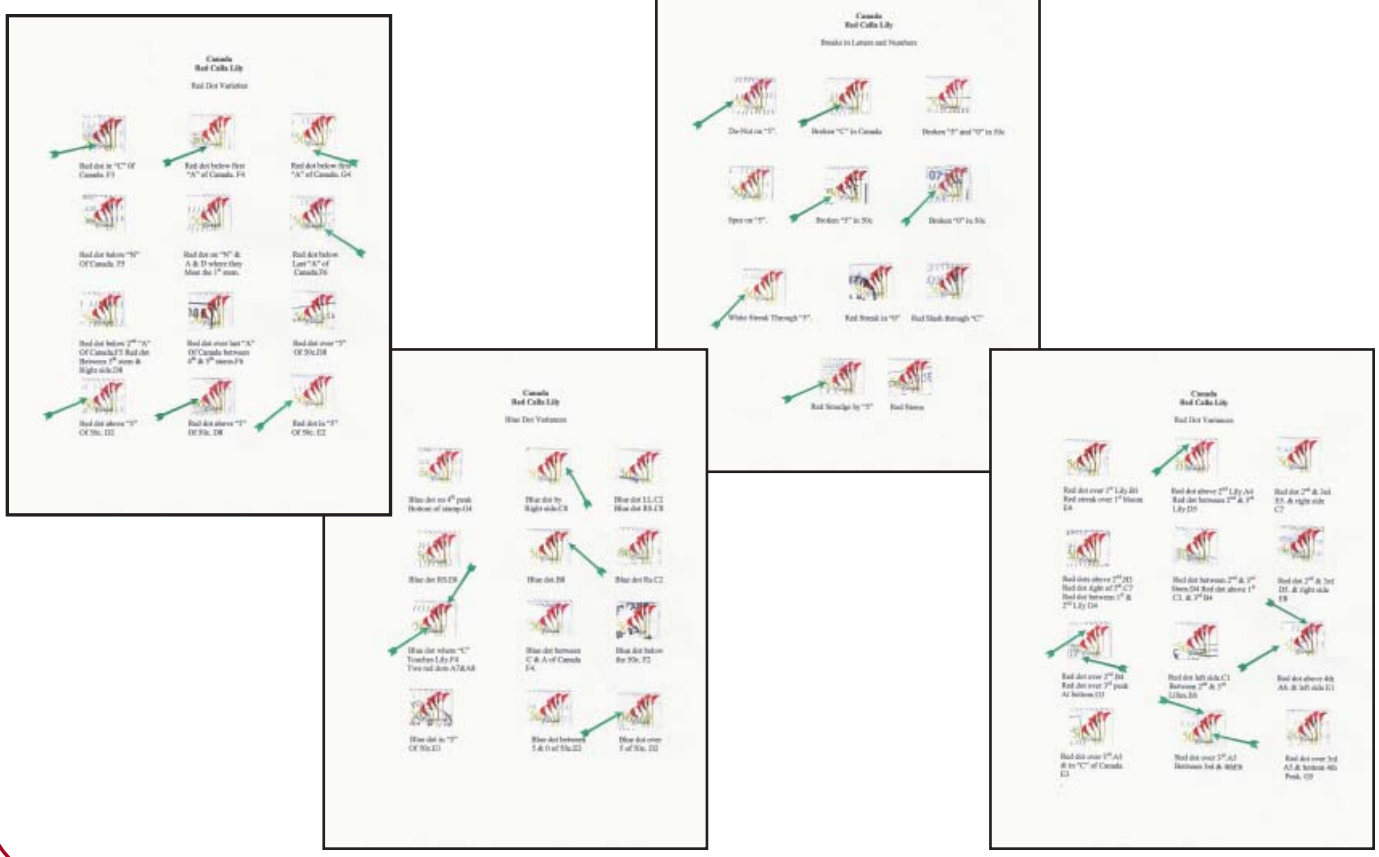
*By Ernie Wlock*

I co-authored a recent article with Al Robb on the various perforations of the Calla Lily stamp (Vol.58 No. 5, September-October 2007, page 272). The article was apparently of interest to a number of readers who have contacted me for a copy of the grid that I used to measure the varied perforations.

The article by Tony Edward, entitled Saga of the Red Calla Lily, is an in-depth study of the stamps' fluorescence, gutters and perforations. As a further study of the issue, I have put together an extensive array of stamps with ink flaws, including red dots, streaks, colour shifts, broken stems, numbers and letters. There also exist black and blue dots, coloured stems ranging from dark to light brown and green to dark green. The same holds true for the blossoms' many shades.

We begin by looking at dots from the left side and work to the right by using the Thirkell Position Finder to determine where on the stamp the flaws are located. It would be unrealistic to reproduce all the varieties here but I have selected four of my 36 pages with "Arricators" to indicate where the flaws are located. Note that each flaw also has a Position Finder number. We do not expect that readers will be able to see the flaws from the scanned pages but they will give an indication of what to look for.

There is practically no limit to the varieties that can be found. After locating over 400 flaws from the thousands of stamps that I examined I decided to call it "quits" for now. I have many duplicates and anyone wishing to pursue this pleasurable project is welcome to contact me for some of my surplus holdings. ✉



# *Alice* in Wonderland

By Michael Peach

With the possible exception of A.A.Milne's Winnie the Pooh and J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter, no children's books have had quite the impact of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* since their first appearance in 1865 and 1872 respectively. They have been reprinted in hundreds of editions since then and continue in popularity to the present day. Not surprisingly, Alice has been featured on postage stamps of various countries. Lewis Carroll was the pen name of the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, D.D., 1832 – 1898, an Oxford mathematician and Student (Fellow) of Christ Church. Following the then English custom as the first son, and eldest of eleven children, of the Reverend Charles Dodgson, he was named Charles, and Lutwidge, the maiden name of his mother, Frances Jane Lutwidge. The pseudonym Lewis Carroll was a play on his real name; Lewis was the anglicised form of Ludovicus, which was the Latin for Lutwidge, and Carroll being an anglicised version of Carolus, the Latin for Charles. The stamp issuing policy of Great Britain does not favour showing famous people on stamps, other than the Royal Family, although there are some exceptions such as Churchill, Shakespeare and a few others.

Figure 1 (above). St. Helena Stamp

Figure 2 (right). Mali Stamp

There are, however, stamps from other countries showing Lewis Carroll, such as, the 2001 stamp of St. Helena (part of a series commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria) (fig. 1), the 1982 Airmail Stamp of the Republic of Mali with a flamingo, a mouse, Alice and the King of Hearts in the background (fig. 2).

Several countries, including, of course, Great Britain, have issued stamps showing Alice and related characters. The British stamps and the pictorial cancellations are based on the John Tenniel illustrations in the original Alice books. In 1979, as part of the International Year of the Child, a 13p stamp was issued showing Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat.

Figure 3. Centenary of death postmark.

Lewis Carroll died at Guildford on January 14, 1898, and the centenary of his death was marked with a Guildford cancellation of the 1979 Alice stamp (fig. 3). The drawing of the Mad Hatter was the design used on the first day cancellation of the Alice stamp from the 1994 Greetings Series, together with the 1979 Alice stamp, dated Darnesbury February 1,

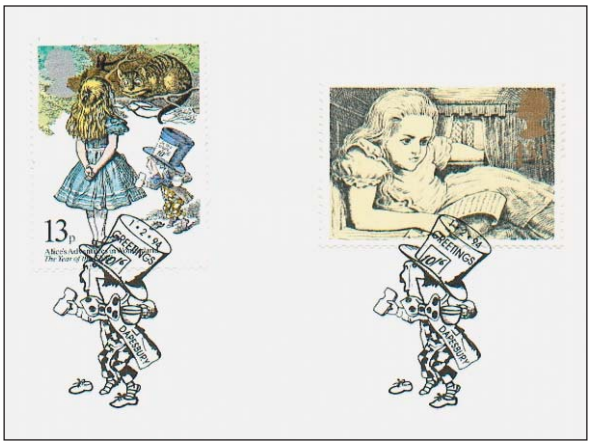


Figure 4. Alice Stamps.

Figure 5. Alice, The Red Queen and the Cheshire Cat.

Figure 6. Alice and Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

1994 (fig. 4). Lewis Carroll was born in Darnesbury on January 27, 1832. Other stamps include the Cheshire Cat, from the Tenniel drawing, and the Queen of Hearts (possibly not Alice related) from the 1990 Greetings series, with November 2, 1998 Daresbury cancellation (fig. 5). The 1998 Christmas stamps were issued on November 2. Tweedledum and Tweedledee from the 1993 Greetings series have a Rugby cancellation showing the two, 23 April 23, 1998 (fig. 6). Another British stamp from the 1998 Famous Children's Fantasy Novel series, shows Alice and the Red Queen running as fast as they can to keep on the spot (fig. 7). Similar stamps from other countries are listed on the web lewiscarrollsociety.org.uk/pages/imspired/stamps.htm.

Figure 7. Alice and the Red Queen.

Lewis Carroll was also a pioneer photographer. I recently saw an exhibition of his photographs at the National Portrait Gallery in London. A self portrait (fig.8) and a photograph of Alice Liddell, the original Alice, (fig.9) are shown. He invented a number of games and puzzles. A condition of his Studentship was that he become

Figure 8 (above). Self portrait.

Figure 9 (left). Alice Liddell.

a priest and remain single (this condition was rescinded in the 1880s). Although he became a deacon, for some reason he was never ordained, but retained his studentship. It is noteworthy that when I was at Rugby School, the same school that Charles Dodgson attended, a secular rather than a religious school, in the early 1950s, some of the masters were ordained members of the Church of England. There is a memorial plaque to Charles Lutwidge Dodgson in the Rugby School Chapel (fig. 10). Incidentally Lewis Carroll invented the world's first stamp stockbook, called the Wonderland Postage Stamp Case (fig. 11).

There are several Cinderella stamps showing Alice. The railway letter service stamp, or rather label (fig.12), produced for the Llechwedd Slate Caverns Railway in North Wales, is based on an original John Tenniel drawing for *Through the Looking Glass* (fig. 13), with inscriptions in English or Welsh.

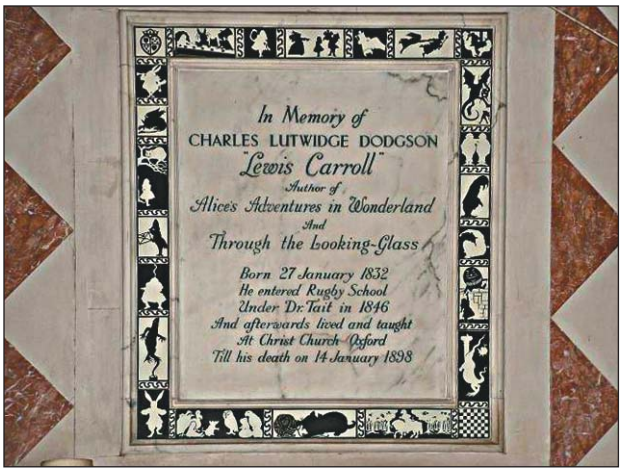



Figure 10. Plaque in Rugby School Chapel.

Figure 11. Wonderland Postage Stamp Case.

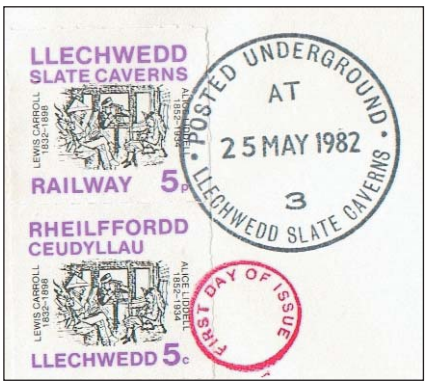



Figure 12. Llechwedd Slate Cavern Railway stamps.

It shows a scene in a railway carriage with Alice on the right, the man dressed in white paper and the goat opposite, and the guard looking at Alice through an opera glass. Down the sides is written Lewis Carrol 1832-1898 and behind Alice, Alice Liddell, 1852-1934. The Llechwedd Slate Caverns are a major tourist attraction and are very near the Ffestiniog Railway which was used to transport the slate to Porthmadog. The narrow gauge railway is another major tourist attraction.

From 1971 to 1984, local postal labels were issued by the owners of Kaulbach Island, west of Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Mahone Bay, for Local Carriage Service of mail to and from the island and the mainland. The local stamps were affixed to the back of the envelope, which was put in the Canada Post mail either at Chester or at the town of Mahone Bay. In 1976 a block was issued featuring *Alice in Wonderland*, which was overprinted in 1977 for the travel agents' visit (fig. 14). These stamps, in blue, show "Alice catching the baby with some difficulty", "it was neither more or less than a pig", the Cheshire cat "I did not know that cats could grin" and "it vanished very slowly… ending with the grin". The then island's owners were obviously fond of Lewis Carroll's "*Alice in Wonderland*". Hence the Alice stamps. ✉

Figure 13. Tenniel drawing.

Figure 14. Kaulbach Island.

# PRECANCELLED CANADIAN STAMPS:

## Queen Elizabeth II Era — Part Two

*By Joseph Monteiro*

### V - The Centennial Definitives

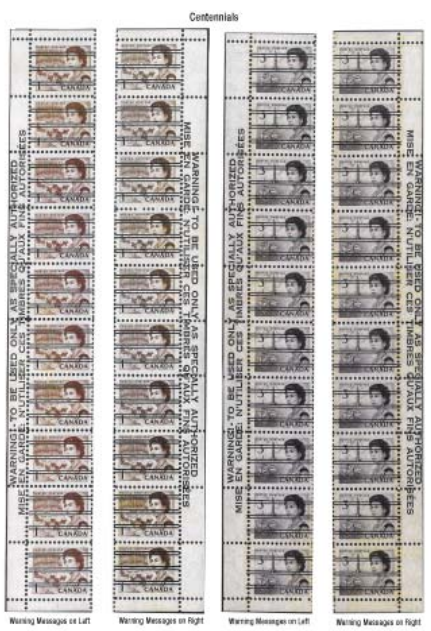
The use of the bilingual warning message used in the Cameo period continued into the Centennial period. The 1-cent, 2-cent, 3-cent, 4-cent, 5-cent and 6-cent precancelled stamps were printed in sheet format; the 3-cent and 5-cent precancelled stamps were printed in coil format. While the perforations on the stamp sheets are either 10 or 12x12 or 12x12.5, the perforations on the coil stamps are 9.5 (vertical). These tagged or non-tagged stamps were all printed on various types of fluorescent paper with various types of gum by CBN except the 6-cent orange and the 6-cent black, Die II, which were printed by BABN.

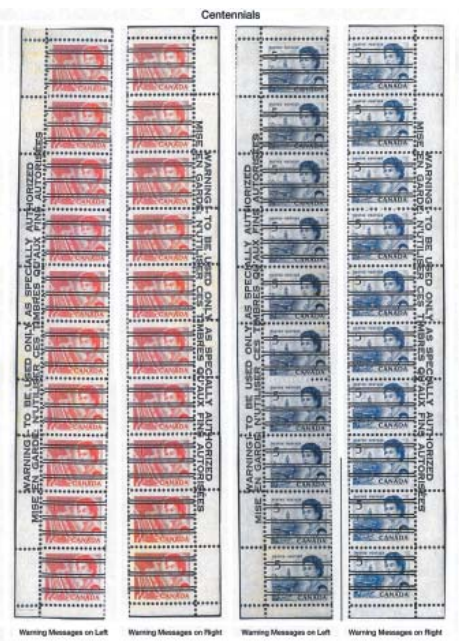
There are, therefore, non-tagged stamps with dextrine gum on Type A (Creamy, low to medium florescence) and Type B (Hibrite) papers; non-tagged stamps with PVA gum on Type C (white, low to medium florescence) paper; and general tagged stamps with PVA gum on Type C paper. Table A8 lists these various precancelled stamps under their broad fluorescent groups.

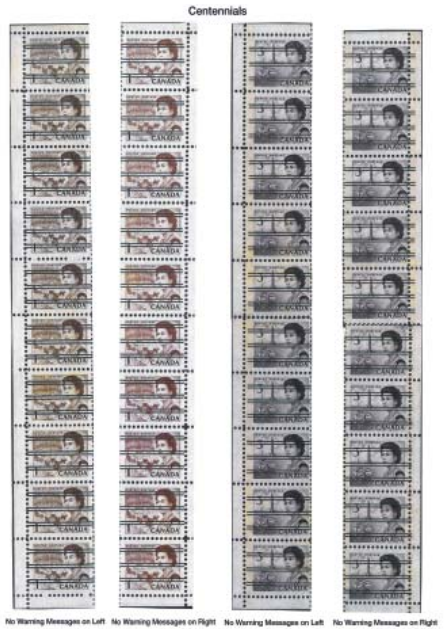
There are three types of precancelled bars used. The first type by CBN on sheets. The second type by BABN on sheets and the third type by CBN on coils. The CBN precancelled bars on panes appear to be thinner than the precancelled bars by BABN on panes. The precancelled bars on coils are thicker than the bars on the panes. Three sets of double bars were used. The bars on the panes are horizontal whereas the bars on the coils are vertical. The precancelled bars do not necessarily pass over the same spot on each precancelled stamp. In other words, on some panes the precancelled bars run over the location of the Queen's lips whereas on other stamps the precancelled bars lie between the Queen's lips.

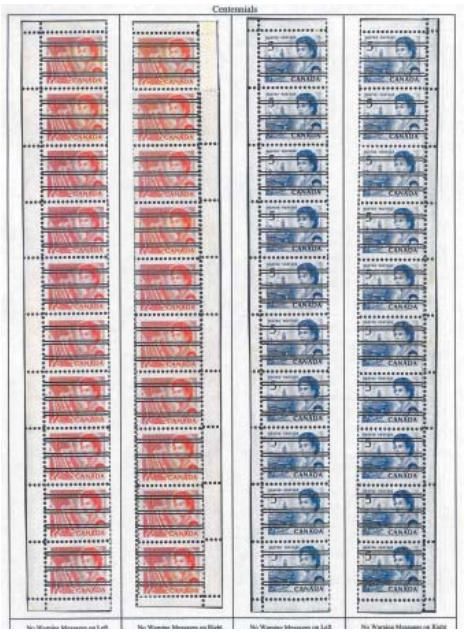
Precancelled pane stamps in this series do not have any margin inscriptions. However, they have a warning message in English, followed by a warning message in French, that reads: WARNING: TO BE USED ONLY AS SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED / MISE EN GARDE: N'UTILSER CES TIMBRES QU'AUX FINS AUTORISÉES

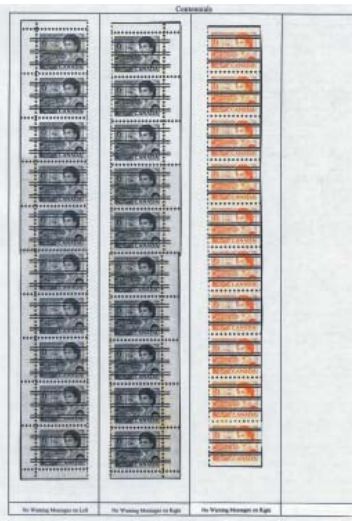
The warning messages are printed vertically to be read from bottom to top on the left side and top to bottom on the right side. The text of the warning messages of both CBN and BABN printers is identi-





cal and spans the same eight stamps. However, the font used by the two differ and the type of lettering by BABN is smaller. Further, on CBN-printed panes, the warning messages appear on either the right or the left side of the pane. The reason for this is the same as that provided for the Cameo stamps, whereas on BABN printed panes, the messages appear on the left side of the pane.

Unlike the stamps in the earlier periods, as described above, the Centennial stamps have been printed on varying types of fluorescent paper. A correlation of the studies by various writers generally indicate a remarkable consistency in their findings. In fact, in three of the eight values listed, i.e. the 2-cent green, the 6-cent orange, and the 6-cent black, Die II, the findings of the investigators are all identical. However, there are a few differences in some of the varieties of the other listed values.

First, for stamps with dextrine gum, the 2-cent, 3-cent, 4-cent, and 5-cent values listed by Michael Milos indicate the existence of a variety with null fluorescence, or non-fluorescence and very dull under UV light not listed by others. Further, Michael Milos also notes the existence of a dull variety in the 1-cent and 5-cents values not listed by the others. Furthermore, Irwin Douglas and Murray Freedman report the existence of stamps with both smooth and streaky dextrine gum for 1-cent, 3-cent, 4-cent, and 5-cent (Hibrite) values not reported by the other investigators, other than the 5-cent value noted by W. Keane and Paul Hughes.

Second, for stamps with PVA gum, Michael Milos reports the existence of the 3-cent on low fluorescence paper, whereas Irwin Douglas & Murray Freedman, and W. Keane & Paul Hughes report the existence of a high fluorescence paper variety. Furthermore, Michael Milos reports the 6-cent (black, perfs. 11.8) non-tagged and Ottawa general tagged on horizontally ribbed paper whereas the other investigators report the non-tagged on plain paper. Irwin Douglas & Murray Freedman, and W. Keane & Paul Hughes report the Ottawa general tagged on medium and high fluorescence paper. Furthermore, they report the existence of an additional non-tagged variety for the 5-cent value.

The precancelled 3-cent and 5-cent coil stamps have starter and ending strips consisting of 10 perforated gummed segments. The first segment of the starter is slightly larger than the rest. The nine smaller gum segments range in size from 25mm to 20mm although on average they are equal to the vertical size of the stamps i.e., 22mm. The larger gummed segment ranges from 30mm to 44mm. The precancelled red lines on the starter segments consist of three sets of two lines. The starting strip has the denomination “3 ct.” or “5 ct.” with the description “PRECANCELLED” below it on the stamp printed horizontally on the first gummed segment in blue ink. The ending strips on the 3-cent and 5-cent coils are white. They consists of 10 perforated gummed segments with the end segment slightly larger than the rest. The nine smaller gum segments are the same as that described above. The larger gummed segment is approximately 32mm.

In summary, Michael Milos notes the existence of non-fluorescent varieties that are not listed in any

of the other studies. The studies of Paul Hughes & W. Keane, and Irwin Douglas & Murray Freedman note the existence of certain stamps with smooth and streaky dextrine gum. Finally, the 6-cent stamp (black, Die I) needs to be analyzed further. The reason is that the number of paper and fluorescence varieties noted by some studies are not noted by others.

## VI. The Caricature Definitives

The warning messages used in the Centennial stamp period continued to be used in the Caricature period. However, there were changes both in the format and in the placement of these messages. First, the bilingual English and French messages were printed on one line rather than one below the other. Second, these messages were printed on both sides of the pane. The warning message reads:

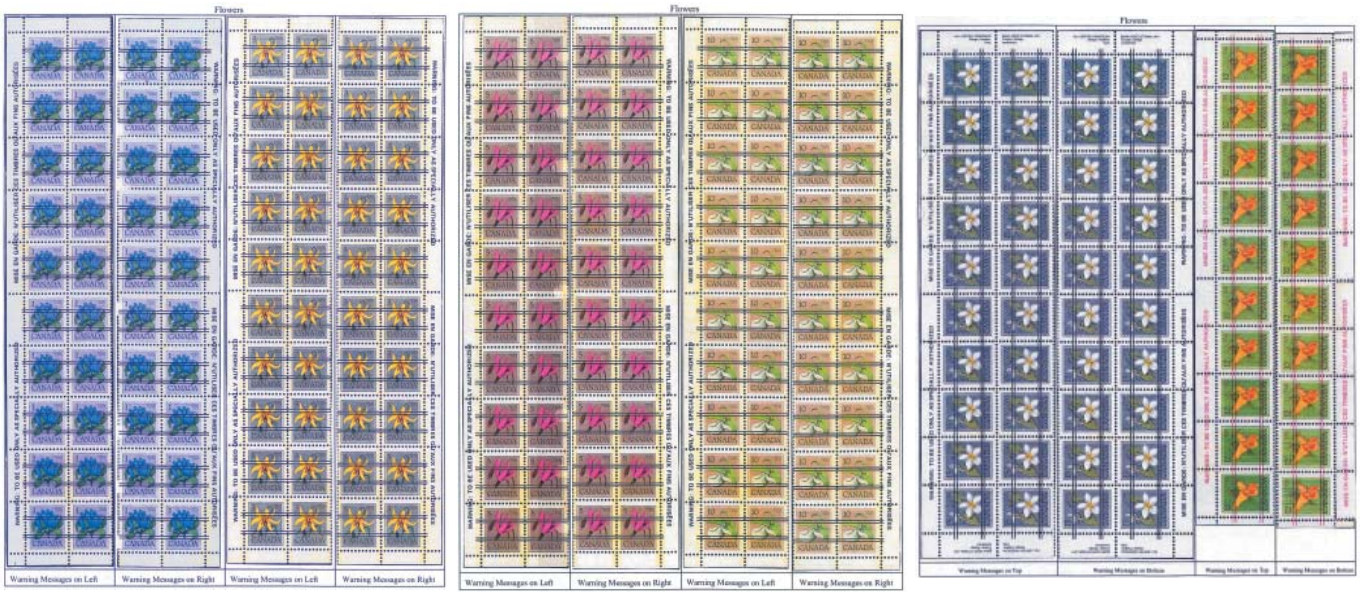
"WARNING: TO BE USED ONLY AS SPECIAL AUTHORIZED/MISE GARDE: N'UTILISER CES TIMBRES QU'AUX FINS AUTORISÉES" from top to bottom on the right side of the selvedge and bottom to top on the left side of the selvedge. Additionally, the messages are printed in a smaller font size. Besides the warning messages, the precancelled parallel lines now appear as two sets of two parallel lines rather than three sets of two as in the earlier period. The warning messages and precancelled lines, as in the earlier period, were printed in black ink.

The precancelled caricature stamps were issued in the following denominations: 1-cent (Macdonald), 2-cent (Laurier) 3-cent (Borden), 5-cent (Bennett), 6-cent (Pearson) and 8-cent (Queen Elizabeth II). The precancelled stamps were printed by Canadian Bank Note, Ottawa, on PVA gummed paper. Two types of paper were used: ribbed and smooth. The 1-cent and 6-cent values were printed on ribbed and smooth paper. The 1-cent, 3-cent, 5-cent, 6-cent and 8-cent were printed on smooth paper. In addition, some of these stamps were printed on smooth paper with varying degrees of fluorescence. The 1-cent was printed on dead, dull and low fluorescent paper; the 3-cent and 5-cent denominations were printed on low fluorescent paper; the 6-cent was printed on dead, dull, low, medium and hi fluorescent papers; and the 8-cent was printed on dead fluorescent paper. The ribbed paper has a dead fluorescence. All these stamps have a perforation of 12 x 12.5 and are tagged OP2 (4mm) vertically.

## VII. The Flower Definitives

The warning messages used on the Caricature stamps continued to be used on the flower definitives. There were, however, two departures from the earlier period. First, on the 12-cent Flower stamp a red ink was used instead of black for the pre-cancellation. Second, the 15-cent precancelled Flower stamp was issued with plate inscriptions accidentally left on the panes. Third, the warning message on the 12-cent and 15-cent appear at the top and bottom of the pane rather than on the two sides of the pane.

Six Flower stamps were precancelled. The stamps were printed on Abitibi paper some by CBN and some by BABN. The 1-cent (Bottle Gentian), 3-cent (Canada Lily), 5-cent (Shooting Star) and 10-cent (Lady's Slipper) stamps were printed by CBN. The



12-cent (Jewelweed) and 15-cent (Canada Violet) stamps were printed by BABN. The stamps printed by CBN have a perforation of 12x12.5 and the stamps printed by BABN have a perforation of 12.9x13.3. The stamps were tagged on two sides (vertically). The quantities of precancelled stamps sent to the Post Office of the 1-cent, 3-cent, 5-cent and 10-cent values were: 895,000, 1.85 million, 4.7 million, and 10.24 million respectively.[3]

In addition to the Flower stamps, a Parliament Peace Tower 12-cent stamp was also precancelled. This stamp was printed by CBN on Abitibi paper. It is tagged on two sides, vertically, and has a perforation of 12.9x13.3 and the warning message appears on the two vertical sides.

## VIII. Major Errors

**Caricatures: 6-cents Pearson - Double Print**

A 6-cent precancelled stamp was reported with a doubling of the precancel.[4] CBN Company believed that this doubling resulted from an offset rather than a double printing. However, it is contended that as a result of further analysis it is a double print. The reason for this contention is the failure of the double precancelled overprint to show up clearly on the tagging. It is believed that the precancelled overprinted stamps were tagged and then fed into the machines for a second precancel overprint. Why the stamps did not receive a second tagging remains unanswered. The double precancelled overprint "variety can be found with a single bar tagging on the right side of the stamps and with regular tagging".[5] The mistagged stamps have been found with or without the warning message. The absence of the warning message has been due to mis-registration of the overprinting plates.

6-cent Pearson - Double Print

6-cent Pearson - Double Print (1-bar tagging)

**3-cent Borden Issue - The warning messages on the right selvedge are shifted on the stamp.**

An entire sheet of the 3-cent Borden precancelled stamp was found with the warning message of the right side selvedge printed in the right column of stamps and the warning message missing on the left selvedge.[6]

**Flower: 1-cent - Gum error and doubling of colours.**

It has been reported that a matched set of plate blocks 1-cent precancelled stamp with gum error was received from the philatelic bureau in a sealed package. Therefore, only 16 copies of this error are known. This error also has three of its lithographic colours doubled.[7]

**12-cent Peace Tower.**

Marginal inscriptions are left on the left side of the pane. After the issue of the Wilding stamps, the precancelled stamps were issued with the marginal inscriptions trimmed off. Occasionally, due to inappropriate trimming of the panes the margin inscriptions were left by error. One such error was found

on the 12-cent Peace Tower precancelled stamp. The marginal inscriptions were left on the left selvedge of the pane.

**12-cents Peace Tower - Print shift.**

The 12-cent Peace Tower precancelled stamp was also found with a major print shift. The print shift is quite significant, 15mm to the left. As a result, part of the print appears in the left selvedge column of the sheet. The column on the right side of the pane appears largely blank except for about 1.5mm of the stamp that is printed. It should be noted that the precancelled line and the inscription in the margin appears to be correctly printed.

12-cent Peace Tower - Print Shift.

## Varieties

**Karsh: 5-cent - Misperforated.**

The 5-cent stamp with the Montreal precancel (i.e., '0700') was found misperforated. This stamp was misperforated horizontally with the perforation sloping downward from left to right. My measurement over eight stamps indicates that the perforation is shifted by about 2.5mm to 5mm. As a result, the perforation goes below the frame of the stamp or could cut the bottom of the frame in the row of stamps above.

5-cent Karsh - Misperforated

**Wilding: 2-cent Coil (shifted precancelled bar).**

The precancel bars on the 2-cent Wilding coil are shifted so that the top bars appear at the bottom of the stamp. This error provides philatelists with how far the three sets of two bars are distanced from the next set of three bars. My calculation indicates that they are 10mm apart.[8]

**Caricatures: 8-cent Queen - 1.5mm longer than normal stamp due to shift in perforation.**

One well-known variety is the precancelled 8-cent stamp which is 1.5mm larger than the regular stamps. It is reported that "this variety has been caused by a misperforation from the H type comb perforator which missed one hole thus leaving an extra imperforated space in the vertical perforation of the top row."[9]

**6-cent Pearson - Misperf.**

The 6-cent Pearson stamp was found vertically misperforated. The vertical perforation is shifted to the right by 4mm to 4.5mm. As a result the name of the country 'Canada' which is printed horizontally at the bottom left now appears on the stamp as 'anada'. The name of the Prime Minister now appears as 'son' instead of 'Pearson'.

6-cent Pearson - Misperforated

**1-cent Macdonald to 8-cent Queen - Tagging Varieties.**

Tagging varieties have been found on a number of caricature stamps. Instead of having the normal two vertical bars at the side of the stamp a number of precancelled stamps were found with only one tagging bar, commonly described as G1a error. These stamps comprise the following: 1-cent; 3-cent; 5-cent; 6-cent; and 8-cent.

**Flower: 1-cent - colour shift downward**

A colour-shift variety has been reported on the 1-cent precancelled stamp.[10] The lithographic colours on the CBN printing are shifted 2mm downward. The engraved colour and perforation are normal. This error was subsequently overprinted with precancelled bars.

**10-cent colour shift to the left**

The 10-cent Lady Slipper precancelled stamp was reported with the dark green colour misplaced 6mm to the left.[11] Only two sheets were found of this variety which has been described by a reporter as a major error.

## IX. Concluding Remarks

Precancelled stamps issued during the Queen Elizabeth II era have, in general, not attracted much attention, however, precancelled stamps preceding this period seem to attract some col-

lector interest from time to time. Part of the reason could be because these stamps could not be used for postage and because most standard catalogues do not list them. This is not surprising and is reflected in collector attitudes which have treated precancelled stamps, postage due stamps, and stamps for government issue as back-of-the-book material.

Nevertheless, they can be interesting items for careful study as few detailed studies have attempted to classify the different varieties that exist with regard to placement of the precancelled lines or other characteristics of pre-cancellations such as thickness of precancelled lines, for instance. As precancelled stamps are no longer issued this task should not be too difficult.

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    Table XXI - A1 - QUEEN ELIZABETH II -- Karsh Portrait (1953)- (Precancelled). See *TCP*, Vol 59, No.2, p87 - editor.

# Ricardo Palma's
# TRADICIONES PERUANAS

*By Ray Ireson, FRPSC*

Maybe not many of my readers will be familiar with the name of Ricardo Palma but in the Hispanic literary world he was a Giant. He wrote his lively Tradiciones out of his delvings into the tales of Old Peru. His life, from 1833 to 1919, in the ancient City of the Kings, covered the days when foibles, peccadilloes, and even crimes of the Creoles of past generations were known and told.

Coat of Arms of the city of Lima

Lima, the City of Kings, had been the seat of government of the richest and greatest of the Spanish viceroyalties in the New World ever since Pizarro the Conqueror laid out the city on the bank of the River Rimac. In those far-off days when Ricardo Palma delighted his fellow mazamorreros (the nickname of the natives of Lima, alluding to their fondness for mazamorra, a delectable style of gruel of many flavours), the Plaza de Annas was the pulsating heart of the lively city.

Francisco Pizarro

Plaza de Armas - 1864

On one side of the Plaza was the ancient palace of Francisco Pizarro, where he was assassinated; and on the east side of the Plaza stands the Cathedral, where the remains of Pizarro are buried.

Palma's Lima was an 18th-century Spanish city in its architecture, customs, and speech. It had been destroyed by the great earthquake of 1740, from which had risen another Lima, with straight narrow cobbled streets, great houses with barred windows in front and a big coach door into the outer patio, sometimes with a second story with latticed balconies over the street.

The Presidential Palacce today

The Cathedral

A beautifully preserved latticed balcony in the heart of Lima. (This was the residence of the Marquis of Torre Tagle).

In Palma's early days the famous soya y manta were still the street dress of ladies. The soya was an ample skirt of heavy silk, which naturally hid everything but the tiny feet. The nianta was a large, square, black - always black - shawl of fine cashmere. This was draped snugly over the head and shoulders, down to or below the waist, and not a gorgeous curve was missed. It could be draped over the head with the face fully exposed or so wrapped across it that nothing but a bright and not so innocent eye showed. Thus concealed, a lady dared to go anywhere with her Indian maid at her heels.

Ricardo Palma experienced bitter days during the Chilean occupation of Lima in the early 1880s. The great National Library, the fruit of his loving toil of

A 'Tapada Limeña' (Veiled lady of Lima).

20 years, full of important colonial documents, was looted and dispersed by the conquering Chileans. During that Occupation Peruvian postage stamps were overprinted with the Chilean Coat of Arms.

But Palma saw a greater library arise from its ruin to become Peru's great repository of ancient records, from which he drew so many of his Tradiciones. He himself was its librarian for the rest of his days. Happily for him, he did not live to see its destruction by fire in the early 1940s. But before his death he completed his Tradiciones: every rank of society is represented in this pageant. Great lords and ladies, bishops, judges, friars haughty and meek, fortune hunters who had struck it rich at Potosí or had discovered hidden Indian treasures, gamblers, cut-throats... and, above all the ladies, beautiful, fascinating, capricious, unmanageable, with a finger in every pie, from every walk of life. All of them come to life under Ricardo's magic touch.

Those daughters of Lima.

Ricardo Palma was truly a great limeño!!

And to conclude this tribute to him I wish to share with you his tale about *Fray Martin's Mice*... which was the subject of a Peruvian stamp issue in 1965 (although the purpose of the issue was to commemorate the canonization of St. Martin de Porras on May 6, 1962). ***ENJOY***

**Fray Martin's Mice**
*All in one plate*
*Dog, mouse and cat ate.*

With this couplet ends a relation of the virtues and miracles of Fray Martín de Porras which circulated in Lima around the year 1840, on the occasion of the celebration of the solemn festival of his beatification in our cultured and religious capital.

This holy man was born in Lima on December 9, 1579. He was the natural son of a Spaniard, Don Juan de Porras, a knight of the Order of Alcantara, and a slave woman of Panama. When Martín was but a little fellow, his father took him to Guayaquil, where, under a schoolmaster who used the rod freely, he learned to read and write. Two or three years later his father brought him back to Lima and set him to learning the useful profession of barber and leech in the shop of a barber in Malambo Street.

Martín did not take to the razor and lancet, though he was skillful enough with them, and preferred the career of saint, which in those days was a profession like any other. When he was 21 he took the habit of lay brother in the Convent of Santo Domingo, where he died on November 3, 1639 in the odour of sanctity.

Our countryman Martín de Porras, during his life and after death, performed miracles wholesale. He worked miracles with the same ease with which some people write poetry. One of his biographers (I do not recall whether it was Father Manrique or Dr. Valdés) tells that the Prior of the Dominicans had to order him to stop "miracling". And to prove how deeply rooted was his habit of obedience in this servant of God, he tells that once, just as Fray Martín was walking past a scaffolding, a workman fell from a height of 25 or 30 feet. The lay brother stopped him in the middle of his fall, shouting: "Wait there a minute, brother!," And the workman hung suspended in mid-air until Fray Martín returned with his Superior's authorization to complete the miracle.

Not a bad little miracle, eh? Well, where there's good, there's better.

The Prior ordered the miracle-working lay brother to buy a loaf of sugar for the infirmary. Perhaps he did not give him enough money to buy the white, refined kind, and Fray Martín brought back a loaf of brown sugar.

"Haven't you got eyes in your head, brother?" complained the Prior. "Can't you see that its so dark it looks more like molasses than sugar?"

"Don't get upset, father," answered the lay brother soothingly. "I'll wash it and that will fix it up."

And without giving the Prior time to answer, he put the loaf of sugar in a tub of water, and lifted it out white and dry.

Now, don't make me laugh, my lip is cracked.

You can either believe it or not, just as you like. But I should point out that I am not putting a dagger to my readers' breasts to make them believe. Freedom

must be free, as a journalist in my country once said. And now I see that I have forgotten what I set out to tell you about, which was mice under Fray Martín's jurisdiction. So let's cut the cackle and get down to horses - I mean, mice.

Fray Martín had a special weakness for mice, those obnoxious visitors who descended upon us at almost the same time as the conquest, for until the year 1552 these animals were unknown in Peru. They arrived from Spain in one of the boats that a certain Don Gutierrez, Bishop of Palencia, sent to our ports with a cargo of salt codfish. Our Indians gave the mice the name of hucuchas, which means "come out of the sea."

In Martín's days as apprentice barber a mouse was still almost a curiosity, for this family of rodents had just begun to multiply. It may have been then that he developed this affection for the little gnawers, seeing in them the handicraft of the Lord. It is possible that he had said to himself, comparing his person with these wee creatures, that a poet wrote:

*God wasted the same time on me or you*
*As in making a mouse, or, at most, two.*

When our lay brother was performing the duties of nurse in the convent, the mice had taken possession of cells, kitchen, and refectory. Cats, which had been introduced into Peru in 1537, were scarce in the city. It is a known fact that the first cats were brought in by a Spanish soldier named Montenegro, who sold one for 200 pesos in Cuzco to Don Diego de Almagro, the Elder.

The friars, annoyed by the invasion of rodents, invented all kinds of traps to catch them, but without much success. Fray Martín, too, set a trap in the infirmary, and an inexperienced young mouse, attracted by the smell of cheese, walked into it. The lay brother set it free and, holding it in the palm of his hand, spoke to it thus:

"Now go little brother, and tell your comrades to stop their bothering and mischief-making in the cells. Tell them to stay out in the garden, and I'll see that they get food."

The envoy performed his mission, and from then on the horde of mice left the cloisters and moved out into the garden. Naturally, Fray Martín paid them a visit every morning, carrying a basket of scraps and left-overs, and the mice hurried over as though they had been summoned by a bell.

The good brother kept a dog and a cat in his cell, and he had taught them to dwell together in brotherly love. They even ate out of the same dish.

One afternoon he was watching them dine in holy peace when suddenly the dog began to growl and the cat's back to arch. A mouse, attracted by the odour of the food, had ventured to stick its nose out of its hole. Fray Martín spied it, and turning to the dog and cat, said to them: "Calm yourselves, children of the Lord, calm yourselves."

Then he approached the hole in the wall and said; "Come out and have no fear, Brother Mouse. You seem to feel the need of food; draw near, they will not harm you."

And addressing the other two animals, he added: "Come, children, make a place for our guest, for God will provide for the three."

And the mouse, without standing on further ceremony, accepted the invitation, and from that day on ate in love and good-fellowship with the dog and cat. ✉

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# THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

*By Dell Luxton*

The mobile telephone (cell 'phone) is a new-fangled gadget that is of a mixed blessing in our modern society. People who use it while driving their car cannot give their full attention to the road and traffic conditions and many are the accidents which are caused by people who are "on the 'phone". Its use in cars has been banned in many communities, and I whole-heartedly support that ban. If you have to go from 'x,' to 'y' then by all means drive... and no more! If you have to talk to someone, then stay in your home or your office, where your chatting does not endanger lives, as the use of a cell phone does in an automobile.

And now, to get on to the meat of my story...

It seems that birds are mimicking the sounds of mobile phones to attract a mate.

Birds such as magpies, bowerbirds, lyrebirds and parrots are chirping 'phone-ring tones, and the incessant beeping of alarms. Male birds are the culprits!

Mobile 'phones are causing more havoc than birdcalls!

In our *Brisbane Courier-Mail* of April 21, another worrying effect of mobile 'phones was reported: their effect on the future of our bees. There has been a mysterious disappearance of millions of bees, which are essential in the eco-system in both agriculture and horticulture.

This was first reported from the US, where the commercial bee population has declined by about two-thirds, due to an epidemic known as Colony Collapse Disorder, where nearly all the bees in a hive suddenly deserted it. The condition has spread to Europe, where a leading bee-keeper has reported that 23 of his 40 hives have been deserted.

# & Mobile Phones

Beginning in October 2006, beekeepers from 24 US states reported that hundreds of thousands of their bees were dying and their colonies were being devastated.

In 1638, an agricultural writer Gervase Markham declared: "Of all the creatures which are fit for the use of man, there is nothing more necessary, wholesome or more profitable than the bee."

Albert Einstein was reported to have said that if bees suddenly ceased to exist, mankind could not survive for more than four years.

In Australia, European settlers in 1788 arrived with food plants that mostly needed European honey bees to pollinate them so they would bear fruit and produce seed. Potatoes and some grains were an exception. After initial crop failures, the lack of honey bees was realized and bees were first successfully introduced to New South Wales in 1822. Several successful introductions followed, with some escaping into the bush. They spread throughout the country and have lived in harmony with native bees.

The European honey bee's role in crop pollination is of much more great importance than the value of its honey production. Food growers call on commercial beekeepers to bring hives on to their properties when their crops are about to flower. Hundreds of thousands of commercially managed beehives are used for pollination of food crops in Australia (and elsewhere, also.)

Colony Collapse Disorder has not yet been reported in Australia - let's hope it never hits our bees.

Whoever would have thought that mobile 'phones could have such a disastrous effect. No bees, less food. ✉

**Did you know that HONEY is the ONLY food that will never spoil, no matter how long you keep it?**

## Germany Reich's Eagle 50 pf

In 1880, Germany released a new version of its 1875 definitives. In 1875, the denominations were in pfennige (with a second "e"). In 1880, the denominations were in pfennig (without a second "e"). The 50 pf has two varieties involving the curved ornament nestling in the notch at the top center of the stamp. The least expensive basic stamp has a catalogue value of 80 Euros mint never hinged (MNH) and 1.5 Euros used.

"Values:" dividing the variety value by the value of the ordinary stamp will create a multiple the reader can apply to prices from any other catalog. For example, if the ordinary stamp has a used price of 100 Euros, and the variety has a used price of 350 Euros, multiplying a *Scott*™ or *Unitrade*™ price for the used stamp by 3.5 will give an approximate value for the variety.

On one variety, the line forming the ornament is broken. For this variety, the catalogue values are 250 Euros MNH and 140 Euros used. On the other variety, the top center ornament is missing completely. The catalogue values for this variety are 400 Euros MNH and 40 Euros used. ✉

Break in top ornament

Top ornament missing

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

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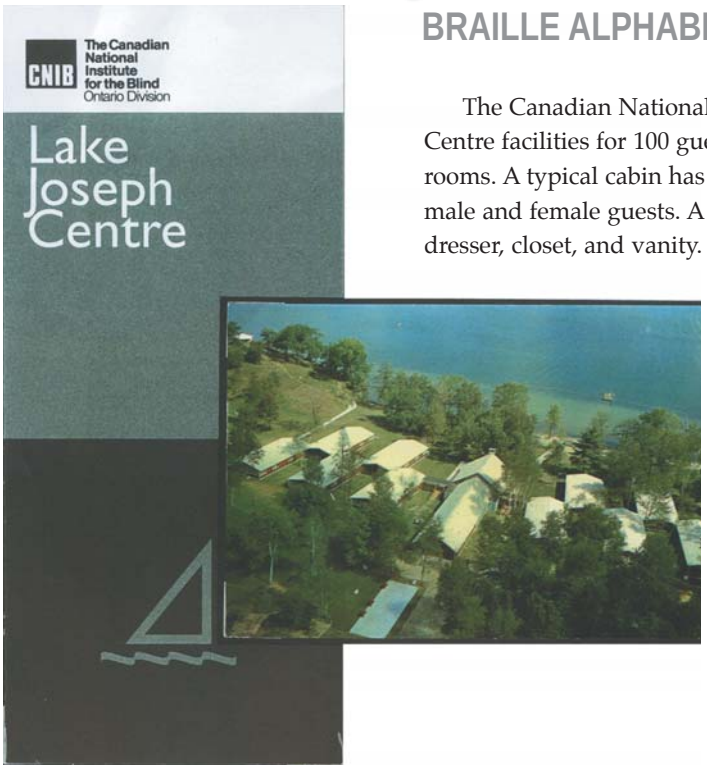
# Transcribing Sounds

*by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC*




## BRAILLE ALPHABET: Recreational Facilities

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, CNIB, maintains at its Lake St. Joseph Centre facilities for 100 guests. The 18-acre site has ten cabins, each with eight bedrooms. A typical cabin has a screened verandah and separate bathroom facilities for male and female guests. A guest room is equipped with two single beds, a nightstand, dresser, closet, and vanity.

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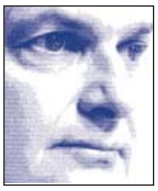

# PRESIDENT'S page
# la page du PRÉSIDENT

*by / par Rick Penko*

## A Web For All Seasons

Scarcely 20 years ago, research and sharing of philatelic knowledge and information was primarily done through libraries and the mail system. Today, the Internet and email have become the primary choice for today's collector. At one time, what may have taken weeks, due to great distances through the mail system can now be done with a couple of computer keystrokes. Though we collect something from a time-honoured system of message transmission, we embrace modern technology to further our hobby.

From dealers, auction houses and suppliers to member societies, clubs and individuals we use the Internet to interact, purchase, advertise and inform one another about our hobby. To some, this electronic technology may appear to be the death knell for stamps and collecting but, the opposite appears to be true. The door has been open to a wider audience. We are able to share and research now on a global scale, instantly.

Many of you are aware, The RPSC uses the Internet to help and service our members as well. From membership renewals to viewing the latest *The Canadian Philatelist*, rpsc.org offers a wide range of services and information about our society plus philately in general. Thanks to the hard and dedicated efforts of Mr. Robin Harris, rpsc.org has become an essential tool for serving our members and sharing of knowledge to the global philatelic committee at large.

Next time you are online, why not stop by and visit rpsc.org or send us a line…. electronically.

## New Appointment

It is with great pleasure to announce that Mr. Michael O. Nowlan of Oromocto, NB has been appointed to Chair the Geldert Medal committee. Currently a member of the committee and Public Relations Director for The RPSC, Mr. Nowlan will bring his keen insight and journalism expertise in handling the helm of this committee. I wish to congratulate Mr. Nowlan and wish him much success in chairing the committee.

I also would like to thank Mr. James Kraemer for all his efforts in chairing the Geldert Committee over the past number of years. Mr. Kraemer has been a huge supporter of organized philately and has also contributed his time by being President of The RPSC from 1985 to 1990.

The Geldert Medal is awarded annually for the best article or series of articles in *The Canadian Philatelist*,

## Le Web À Votre Service

Il y a à peine une vingtaine d'années, la recherche et l'échange de connaissances et de renseignements philatéliques se faisaient principalement en visitant les bibliothèques et dans le système postal. Aujourd'hui, Internet et le courriel sont devenus le premier choix des collectionneurs. Ce qui autrefois, en raison de grandes distances, exigeait des semaines de circulation dans le réseau postal, peut aujourd'hui se faire en quelques touches de clavier. Bien que l'objet de nos collections vienne d'un système consacré de transmission des messages, nous acceptons la technologie moderne afin de promouvoir notre passe-temps.

Que nous soyons négociant, maison de vente aux enchères, fournisseur, société membre, club, ou simple philatéliste, nous utilisons l'Internet pour interagir, faire des achats, des annonces et nous renseigner sur notre passe-temps. Si, selon certains, la technologie sonne le glas des timbres et de la philatélie, le contraire semble tout aussi vrai. La porte s'ouvre à un vaste auditoire. Nous pouvons maintenant faire de l'échange et des recherches à l'échelle mondiale, et ce, instantanément.

Beaucoup d'entre vous savent que La SRPC utilise l'Internet pour aider ses membres et leur offrir des services. Que ce soit pour renouveler votre adhésion ou lire le dernier numéro *du Philatéliste canadien*, rpsc.org vous offre une grande variété de services et de renseignements sur la société et sur la philatélie en général. Grâce aux efforts considérables et dévoués de M. Robin Harris, rpsc.org est devenu un outil essentiel pour offrir des services à nos membres et partager nos connaissances avec l'ensemble du monde philatélique.

La prochaine fois que vous surferez sur le web, pourquoi ne pas nous rendre visite à rpsc.org ou nous envoyer un petit mot… électronique.

## Nouvelle Nomination

Nous sommes très heureux de vous annoncer que M. Michael Nowlan d'Oromocto, N.-B. a été nommé président du Comité pour la médaille Geldert. M. Nowlan est actuellement membre du comité et directeur des relations publiques de La SRPC. Il apportera sa perspicacité et son expérience en journalisme à la barre du comité. Je désire féliciter M. Nowlan et lui souhaiter beaucoup de succès à la présidence du comité.

J'aimerais également remercier M. James Kraemer pour les efforts qu'il a déployés à la présidence du Comité pour la médaille Geldert pendant de nombreuses année. M. Kraemer a été un grand soutien pour la philatélie et a aussi donné de son temps en tant que président de La SRPC (1985-1990).

La médaille Geldert est accordée chaque année pour la meilleure série d'articles ou le meilleur article à avoir paru dans *Le*

the official journal of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The Geldert Medal was established by Phyllis Geldert in memory of her husband, Dr. George M. "Mac" Geldert, FRPSC, president of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (1958-1967). ✉

*philatéliste canadien*, la revue de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada. La médaille Geldert a été instituée par Phyllis Geldert à la mémoire de son mari, le docteur George M. « Mac » Geldert, FRPSC, président de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada (1958-1967). ✉

# MEMBERSHIP report
# Des nouvelles de nos MEMBRES

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

## NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

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

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

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

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS / MEMBRES À TITRE PERSONNEL**

**I-28837 • Dr. Peter Prinsen**
*World Classics, BNA, Netherlands and colonies.*

**I-28838 • Ms. Lisa Goodbrand-Shave**

**I-28839 • Dr. Stan Atherton**

**I-28840 • Mr. David MacLachlan**
*Canada*

**I-28841 • Mr. David Fleury**
*Canada*

**I-28842 • Mr. David Hobden**
*Canadian Postal History - Early Military & Halton County*

**I-28843 •Mr. Aram Mosisian**

**I-28844 • Mr. Edward Fisher**
*US, Canada, GB, Ireland, France, Germany*

**I-28846 • Mr. Stewart Murray**
*BNB, Air Mails, Postage Due*

**I-28847 • Mr. Jack Heath**
*Canada and provinces, FDCs*

**I-28848 • Mr. Jeff Felix**
*Canada and Canadian varieties, Czech, Slovakia, Austria*

**I-28849 • Mr. David Butler**
*Strictly Canadian stamps, leaning towards the Victoria stamps.*

**I-28850 • Mr. Ross Davis**
*Canada, USA, Commonwealth to 1970, Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Netherlands, Togo, United Nations, Vatican (all to 1970)*

**I-28851 • Mr. Mario Chevrette**
*Canada, USA plate number coils, Topical: Formula 1 and spiders*

**I-28852 • Mr. Richard Canupp**

**I-28853 • Mr. Martin Habraken**

**I-28854 • Mr. David Goreski**
*US and Possessions, Revenues*

## RESIGNED MEMBERS / MEMBRES DÉMISSIONNAIRES

**I-10176 • Mr. John L. Dinoff**

**I-26938 • Mr. Douglas Cameron**

## DECEASED MEMBERS / MEMBRES DÉCÉDÉS

**I-22548 • Mr. Harold G. Lord**

**I-27634 • Mr. Marcel Berry**

**I-28359 • Mrs. Margaret Kelly**

**I-28687 • Mr. Stanley Lum**


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# Chapter CHATTER
# PARLONS des chapitres

*by / par George Pepall, FRPSC*

I've had e-mail feedback from four or five clubs about the suggestion that we run a club newsletter contest. In all cases, not surprisingly, the feedback has come from larger clubs that already have successful newsletters. That's fine, but our hope is to encourage smaller clubs who may not yet have newsletters at all to start one. Perhaps we'll look at two levels of friendly competition: one for existing newsletters, and one for startups within the last year. More to follow, but please keep sending me your suggestions.

One of the important benefits to your club of membership in The RPSC is receiving a copy of our award-winning magazine, *The Canadian Philatelist* (*TCP*). But once your secretary or RPSC rep reads it, what then? Well, we hope that you offer it to your members at the next club meeting, for circulation and sign-out. Then could it find its way to your club library shelf?

Speaking of a club philatelic library, such a resource can be a helpful benefit of individual club membership. Current *Scott* and *Canada Specialized* catalogues, specialty reference books on BNA, topical and other popular fields can be listed and offered for all members to borrow. But where to keep your books and magazines that they can be safe, orderly and yet available to all? Well, if you have the luxury of a retail stamp store in town, maybe the store owner or dealer will offer a shelf. Or is there a lockable cupboard or closet in your rented hall or church basement? Failing that, perhaps a member would keep your library in his or her home and bring items for loan to meetings on request. Let me know if you want to know more about our club's library operation.

I see that at least a few clubs are in the very positive habit of honouring their longer-term members for, say, ten, 15 and more years of membership, in multiples of five. This can be done with pins or the engraving of names on a trophy, or any number of other ways that are unique to your club. Please let me know if you have a special way of recognizing long years of membership or executive service.

Does your club have a website? Many do, and find it a very worthwhile source of contacts, publicity and even new members. I recently learned of a simple way to obtain monthly stats on visits and hits on your site. It's called 'webalizer'. Computer-

J'ai reçu des courriels de quatre ou cinq clubs en réponse à ma suggestion d'organiser un concours de bulletin d'information. Dans tous les cas, on ne s'en étonne pas, les commentaires venaient de grands clubs qui en émettent déjà un qui marche bien. Bravo, mais nous souhaitons surtout encourager les petits clubs qui n'ont peut-être pas encore de bulletin à en créer un. Cette compétition amicale pourrait comporter deux niveaux : un pour les bulletins existants et l'autre, pour ceux qui ont été lancés au cours de la dernière année. Nous en reparlerons, mais en attendant, s'il vous plaît, continuez à m'envoyer vos suggestions.

L'un des avantages importants de votre adhésion à La SRPC est de recevoir *Le philatéliste canadien* (*LPC*), notre revue primée. Une fois que le secrétaire ou le représentant de La SRPC de votre club l'a lue, que se passe-t-il? Quoi qu'il en soit, nous espérons que vous l'offrez aux membres à la réunion suivante afin qu'ils le fassent circuler. Par la suite, le Philatéliste pourrait-il trouver sa place sur les rayons de la bibliothèque de votre club?

À ce propos, les bibliothèques philatéliques des clubs constituent une ressource utile pour les membres à titre individuel. Des catalogues courants, Scott ou canadiens spécialisés, ainsi que des livres de référence sur une foule de sujets et de domaines populaires peuvent être répertoriés et prêtés aux membres. Mais où pouvez-vous laisser vos livres et vos revues en ayant l'assurance qu'ils seront en sécurité, bien rangés et accessibles à tous? Si vous avez le privilège d'avoir un détaillant de timbres dans votre localité, le propriétaire de ce magasin ou le négociant pourrait vous offrir une étagère. Ou encore, y a-t-il une armoire ou un placard muni d'une serrure dans la salle que vous louez ou dans votre sous-sol d'église? Sinon, l'un de vos membres accepterait peut-être de tenir la bibliothèque chez lui et, sur demande, d'apporter les livres commandés aux réunions. Si vous désirez en apprendre davantage sur le fonctionnement de la bibliothèque de notre club, faites-le-moi savoir.

Je constate qu'au moins quelques clubs ont l'excellente habitude d'honorer leurs membres de longue date par exemple, en multiples de cinq, ceux qui ont dix ou quinze ans, ou plus, à leur actif. Cet hommage peut être rendu en offrant une épinglette, un trophée sur lequel des noms sont gravés ou d'une autre façon propre à chaque club. J'aimerais savoir si vous avez une manière particulière de souligner les nombreuses années de service ou de tâches administratives accomplies par vos membres.

Votre club possède-t-il un site Web? Beaucoup en ont un et trouvent que c'est une source intéressante de contacts, de publicité et de nouveaux membres. Dernièrement, j'ai appris

literate members of your club will be able to attach that name to your website address and find statistics on hits and visits on a monthly and yearly basis, with bar graphs, etc. One important distinction I've picked up is that hits are not nearly as meaningful as visits, because each image component of your website counts as a hit; i.e., one visit may mean dozens of hits.

We continue to be in the dark about contact information for some of the local clubs. Please contact the national office if you have had changes of contact information, OR if you know of other nearby clubs that have. We are one big family of clubs nationwide, and we want to know how we can get in touch with all our members.

How would your club like to have a feature write-up alonside this column? British philatelic journals feature one local club in each issue, with a group photo, meeting time, place and activities, membership conditions and special benefits, unique programs, show information and more. If clubs were willing to do the write-ups and photos, we might be able to find space for these club profiles in *TCP*. Again, please let me know.

How does one stamp collector propose marriage to another? By saying, "Let's file our duplicates together!" ✉

une façon simple d'obtenir des statistiques mensuelles sur les visites et les requêtes effectuées dans un site, le « webalizer ». Les membres de votre club qui sont versés en informatique seront capables de l'ajouter à votre adresse url et de recueillir à l'aide de barres, de graphiques, etc., des statistiques mensuelles ou annuelles sur les visites et les requêtes. Je me suis cependant rendu compte que les requêtes ne sont pas aussi pertinentes que les visites parce que chaque composant d'image de votre site compte pour une requête alors qu'une visite peut signifier des douzaines de requêtes.

Nous n'avons toujours pas les coordonnées des personnes à joindre pour certains clubs locaux. Veuillez aviser le Bureau national si vous avez des changements à signaler à cet égard OU si vous connaissez des clubs voisins qui en ont. Nous constituons une grande famille de clubs à l'échelle nationale et voulons savoir comment communiquer avec tous nos membres.

Comment votre club aimerait-il avoir une manchette juste à côté de cette chronique? Les revues philatéliques britanniques présentent un club local dans chaque numéro avec une photo de groupe, l'horaire et le lieu des réunions et des activités, les conditions d'adhésion, les avantages particuliers, les programmes uniques, des renseignements sur les expositions et davantage. Si des clubs rédigeaient un article et nous fournissaient des photos, nous pourrions sans doute tracer leur profil dans le Philatéliste. Encore une fois, j'attends de vos nouvelles.

Comment un philatéliste en demande-t-il un autre en mariage? En disant « mettons nos doubles en commun! » ✉

# in MEMORIAM
# NÉCROLOGIE

Michael Painter died on February 15, 2008, at the age of 80. One of the Vancouver area's leading philatelists, he was a member of the British North America Philatelic Society and its Pacific Northwest Regional Group, Vancouver's 21 Club, and several aerophilately societies.

Mike was raised in Okanagan Mission, British Columbia and studied and wrote about the history of the Okanagan. In World War II, at the age of 15, he served in the Rocky Mountain Rangers – seconded from the Boy Scouts as a flag signal man, using skills learned while scouting.

Mike collected material related to the postal history of the Okanagan, as well as early picture post cards of the Okanagan Valley. As recently as December 2007, he gave a talk on these cards at the 21 Club. Mike formed an excellent collection of the Centennial issue of Canada.

He was a forest engineer, and worked all over British Columbia. In his work, he flew with bush pilots. This led to another of his philatelic collections: Canadian air mails. He was especially interested in the Junkers aircraft used in Canada. He built a strong collection of the semi-official air mail stamps and covers of Canada, a topic related to the flights made by bush pilots.

Mike leaves behind his wife Mary, his youngest daughter Adrienne Painter in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and Sarah and Jason Farris and two grandchildren Jane and Owen in West Vancouver. Our hobby has lost a gentle, thorough collector – a close friend and colleague who will be sorely missed.

**Bill Liaskas and Gray Scrimgeour**

# chapter MEETINGS
# RÉUNIONS des clubs membres

**AJAX PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
RPSC Chapter 163 meets the 2nd and 4th Thurs, Sept. to June at the Ajax Public Library, 65 Harwood Ave. S., 6-9 p.m. Contact: Steve Warcop, 1511 Silver Spruce Dr., Pickering, ON L1V 5G9. (416) 875-6446. E-mail: stevewarcop@hotmail.com.

**AMICALE DES PHILATÉLISTES DE L'OUTAOUAIS (APO)**
Les membres de l'APO, chapitre 190 de la SRPC, se réunissent tous les jeudis de début septembre à fin avril, de 18h30 à 21h00. Les réunions ont lieu au Châlet Fontaine, 120 rue Charlevoix à Hull (Québec). Carte de membre 20 $ (10$ pour les moins de 16 ans). Vendeurs, encans, exposition. / Members of the APO (Chapter #190) meet every Thurs. from Sept. to the end of April, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Châlet Fontaine, 120 Charlevoix, Hull, Québec. Membership $20 ($10 under 16). Dealers, auctions, show and bourse. Contact: A. Bossard, 5-1160 Shillington, Ottawa, ON K1Z 7Z4; (613) 722-7279; e-mail: isabelle.alain @sympatico.ca

**CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE "LES TIMBRÉS" DE BOISBRIAND**
Section adulte: Tous les lundis soir de 18h45 à 21h. Section junior: Tous les samedis de 9h. à 11h30; au Centre socio-culturel de Boisbriand, 480 rue Chavigny, Broisbriand, QC, J7G 2J7; information: Mrs. Linda Nadon Présidente 450-435-8604 et M. Maurice Touchette Vice-président-Trésorier 450-435-5973.

**BARRIE DISTRICT STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 73, meets the second Thursday of the month, except July and August, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Owen and Worsley Streets, Barrie, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Dr. Joaquin Kuhn, 15 Albert Street West, Hillsdale, ON L0L 1V0. Telephone 705-835-7777, E-mail j.kuhn@utoronto.ca.

**BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB**
RPSC Chapter 144 meets the 1st Sun. Oct. to June 2-4 p.m. and the 3rd Tues. year round 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.) Brampton, ON. Contact: Bramalea Stamp Club, Box 92531, Bramalea, ON L6W 4R1.

**BRANTFORD STAMP CLUB**
RPSC Chapter 1 meets on the 1st and 3rd Tues. Sept. to May, and the 1st Tues. in June, at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. ON at 7 p.m., short business meeting at 8 p.m., followed by a program. Circuit books, five dealers. Contact: Secretary, Box 25003, 119 Colborne St. W., Brantford, ON N3T 6K5; (519) 753-9425

**BRITISH COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Meetings occur Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM from Sept. to June, at West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Ave., Burnaby BC, near the Metrotown Skytrain station. See our website at www.bcphilatelic.org for details of meeting times and locations. For more information call Bob Ingraham, President, at (604) 694-0014.

**BROCK/PRESCOTT STAMP CLUB**
Meets the 3rd Wed. Sept. to May at 7 p.m. at Wall Street United Church, 5 Wall St., Brockville, ON. Contact Roy Brooks at (613) 342-7569.

**CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
(Chapter 66) Regular meeting: 1st Wed. except July and Aug., 7 p.m. Auctions on 3rd Wed. of month except Dec., 7:30 p.m. Kerby Centre, 1133 7 Ave. SW. Contact: Calgary Philatelic Society, PO Box 1478, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2L6, or visit www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

**CAMBRIDGE STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 4 - Meets on the first Thursday of the month (all year) and the third Monday of the month (September to June) on the second floor of the Allan Reuter Centre, 507 King Street, Cambridge. Visitors welcome. Information Ron Adkin, 1736 Briarwood Drive., Cambridge, ON N3H 5A7 (519) 650-5136.

**CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY**
RPSC Chapter 187, yearly membership for Canadians $20 Cdn, for Americans $22 Cdn. and for all other countries $25. No formal meetings, but members join the RA Stamp Club meetings at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, ON at 7:30 p.m. every Mon. except June to Aug. Contact: Brian Wolfenden, 203A Woodfield Drive, Nepean ON K2G 4P2. (613) 226-2045.

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL PHILATELY**
Chapter 76, Jan Bart Judaica Study Group, meets on the 2nd Wed. except July and Aug., 7 p.m., at Lippa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, ON. Contact: Joseph Berkovits, 33-260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON M5A 1N1. (416) 635-1749.

**CANADIAN FORCES BASE TRENTON STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 89 meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wed. Sept. to June at the Trenton Seniors' Club (Club 105) at the corner of Bay and Campbell Streets at 6:45 p.m. Contact: G.A. Barsi at (613) 394-2024, M. Leedham at (613) 392-7462 or S. Taylor at (613) 393-4316.

**COBOURG STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 106 meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month (Sept through May) and once a month during June, July and August at the Salvation Army Citadel, 59 Ballantine St., Cobourg. For further information re club activities please contact Harold Houston at 905-885-0075 or e-mail hhouston@cogeco.ca.

**COLBORNE STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 205 meets on the 2nd and 4th Tues. Sept. to May at 7 p.m. in the Seniors' Drop-In, Vourneen "Buff" Jack Memorial Centre, 14 Victoria Square. Contact: Box 1073, Colborne, ON K0K 1S0.

**COLLINGWOOD - GEORGIAN BAY COIN & STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 168 meets 3 times a month year-round: 1st Tuesday of the month at the Real Can. Superstore in Midland, 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Real Can. Superstore in Wasaga beach. All meetings are from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Contact: Pres. Horst Bolik 705-429-4061.

**CREDIT VALLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY - MISSISSAUGA**
Chapter 67 of The RPSC meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to April, 7 to 9 p.m. at Christ Church United, 1700 Mazo Crescent - one block east of Clarkson Rd. and one block north of Truscott. Contact Bob Laker (905) 608-9794.

**DELTA STAMP CLUB**
Club meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tues. Sept. to May at 7:30 p.m. at the Beach Grove Elementary School, 5955 17A Ave., Tsawwassen, BC. Contact Keith Meyer, President, #7-1100-56th St. Delta, BC V4L 2N2.

**EAST TORONTO STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 12 meets the 1st and 3rd Wed., except June to Aug., at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Ave. Contact: Sec. Raymond Reakes, 188 Woodmount Ave., Toronto, ON M4C 3Z4. (416) 425-1545.

**EDMONTON STAMP CLUB**
Edmonton's Chapter 6 meetings held every other Mon., Sept. to June at 7 p.m., at St. Joseph High School cafeteria (use north entrance), 10830-109 St. Contact: Box 399, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Keith Spencer (780) 437-1787 or e-mail ameech@telusplanet.net.

**ESSEX COUNTY STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 154 meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month (except no second meeting in July, August and December), at 7:00 p.m. at 5050 Howard Ave, Windsor, ON. Contact: David L. Newman, President, at 1165 Wigle Ave, Windsor, ON, N9C 3M9. Tel.: (519) 977-5967. E-mail: lacumo@cogeco.ca.

**FENELON STAMP CLUB**
The club meets on the second monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Fenelon Falls Baptist Church on Colbourne Street in Fenelon Falls. For more information, contact President, Lloyd McEwan, 705-324-7577, 212 Mary St. W., Lindsay, ON K9V 2N8.

**FRASER VALLEY PHILATELIC CLUB**
Meets at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Monday, except holidays, at Abbotsford Senior Secondary School, 2329 Crescent Way. Contact N. Holden at (604) 859-9103.

**FREDERICTON DISTRICT STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 148 meets the 1st and 3rd Tues, Sept. to May at 7:30 p.m. at the Hugh John Fleming Forestry Centre, 1350 Regent St. Contact Ron Smith, 12 Chateau Dr., McLeod Hill, NB, E3A 5X2, (506) 453-1792, e-mail: rsmith0225@rogers.com

**FUNDY STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB**
Meets the 1st Thurs, except July and August, at 7 PM at the CN Pensioners Centre, 1 Curry Street. Contact Mike Leighton at (506) 389-8083 or PO Box 302, Moncton, NB E1C 8L4

**GREATER VICTORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Chapter 32 meets on the 3rd Fri. at 7:30 p.m. at the Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay. Circuit books, auction and special programs prevail. Contact Don Dundee, 928 Claremont Ave., Victoria, BC V8Y 1K3, (604) 658-8458.

**HAMILTON STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 51 meets at 6 p.m. on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Mon., Sept. to June except holidays, and 2nd Mon. of July, at Bishop Ryan secondary school, Quigley Rd. and Albright St. Contact: Clare Maitland (Secretary), Box 60510, 673 Upper James St., Hamilton, ON, L9C 7N7; e-mail: stamps@hwcn.org or online at: www.hwcn.org/-ip029

**INSURANCE AND BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN - CANADIAN BRANCH**
Chapter 82 meets on the third Thursday of most months at the premises of DEPAG Agency, 14th floor, 67 Yonge Street, Toronto. Some meetings may be held at other venues as required. Contact Joe Janthur, President, at 416-364-4112.

**KAWARTHA STAMP CLUB**
The Kawartha Stamp Club, meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at 6:30 p.m. at the Immanuel Alliance Church, 1600 Sherbrook Street West, Peterborough, ON K9J 6X4. Contact Marie Olver at 705-745-4993 for more info.

**KELOWNA & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 90 meets on the 1st Wed. Sept. to June at 7 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall, 2597 Richter St., Kelowna, BC. Contact: Kelowna Stamp Club, PO Box 24081, Town Centre P.O., Kelowna, BC V1Y 9H2.

**KENT COUNTY STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 7 meets 4th Wed. except July, Aug. and Dec. in the library of John McGregor Secondary School, 300 Cecile, Chatham, ON, at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Secretary, Allan Burk, 43 Sudbury Dr., Chatham, ON N7L 2K1.

**KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 196 meets the 1st Wednesday of the month in the back of the Anglican Church on Russell Street at 7:00 p.m. Contact President John Cortan 519-395-5817 or Secretary Andrew Lunshof 519-396-5910. Club mailing address is 677 Hunter Street, Kincardine, ON N2Z 1S6 or e-mail: carm@bmts.com.

**KINGSTON STAMP CLUB**
Meets 7-9 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mon. Sept. to May at the Ongwanada Resource Centre, 191 Portsmouth Ave. Free parking and wheelchair access. Consignment table, auctions, bourse, OXFAM, and trading. Contact Richard Weigand, 218 Richmond Street, RR#1, Bath, ON K0H 1G0, e-mail: rweigand@kos.net.

**KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Chapter 13 meets the 2nd Thurs. Sept. to June at Albert McCormick Arena, Parkside Dr., Waterloo. Contact: James Oliver, P.O. Box 43007, Eastwood Square PO, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9, (519) 893-4092.

**LAKEHEAD STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 33 meets the 2nd Wed. and last Fri. Sept. to June at the Herb Carroll Centre, 1100 Lincoln St., Thunder Bay, ON. at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Secretary D. Lein, 232 Dease St., Thunder Bay, ON P7C 2H8.

# chapter MEETINGS
# RÉUNIONS des clubs membres

**LAKESHORE STAMP CLUB –**
**CLUB PHILATÉLIQUE DE LAKESHORE**
Chapter 84 meets at St. John the Baptist Church, 233 Ste-Claire Street in Pointe-Claire, on the 2nd and 4th Thurs. Sept. to June at 7:30 p.m. Contact: François Brisse, President, PO Box 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, QC, H9R 4N5. / Le chapitre 84, se réunit tous les jeudis du début septembre à fin juin, à 19h30. Les réunions ont lieu à l'Église St. John the Baptist, 233 rue Ste-Claire à Pointe-Claire. Information: François Brisse, Président, Case Postale 1, Pointe Claire/Dorval, QC, H9R 4N5.

**LETHBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Chapter 57, The Lethbridge Philatelic Society, meets on the second Thursday of the month (except June, July or August) at 7 p.m. in the community room of Save on Foods, 1112 2nd A Ave N, Lethbridge, AB

**MEDICINE HAT COIN & STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 146 meets the 2nd and 4th Tues. at 7:30 p.m. at the Volunteer Centre (Redi Enterprises Bldg) 856 Allowance Ave. S.E. Contact: Rudy Hartman, 22 Park Meadows Dr. S.E., Ste. 104, Medicine Hat, AB T1B 4E8.

**MIDDLESEX STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 204 meets every other Fri. Sept. to May, at 7 p.m. in the basement of St. Martin's Church, 46 Cathcart St., London. Meeting at 8 p.m. Contact Patrick Delmore at (519) 675-0779.

**MILTON STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 180 meets on the last Mon., except Dec. at 7 p.m. at Hugh Foster Hall (beside Town Hall) in Milton, ON. Silent auction every meeting. Contact: Milton Stamp Club, 425 Valleyview Cres., Milton, ON L9T 3K9; (905) 878-1533, or e-mail: alman@globalserve.net.

**MONTREAL PHILATELIC CLUB**
Chapter 122 meets monthly from September to June, at 7:30 p.m. at the Westmount Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount. Contact: 25 Levasseur, St. Constant, QC J5A 1M9. Telephone: 514-735-3941; E-mail: lslaven@sympatico.ca.

**MUSKOKA STAMP CLUB**
Meets the first Wednesday of each month at Bracebridge Public School, 90 McMurray Street, Bracebridge, ON. (Location for July & August will vary). Contact Bruce Hughes, 29 Sallys Lane, R.R.1, Port Sydney, ON P0B 1L0. Telephone 705-385-2020.

**NELSON STAMP CLUB**
Meets on the 3rd Thurs. except Dec. at 7 p.m. at #105-402 W. Beasley, Nelson, BC V1L 5Y4.

**NORTH BAY & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB**
The North Bay & District Stamp Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, September to May, at Empire Living Centre, 425 Fraser Street, North Bay at 6:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Contact person: Ms. Terry Turner, tel. (705) 472-6918, e-mail: teron@sympatico.ca.

**NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 5 meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from January to June and from September to November. Meetings are held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, one block north of St. Clair Avenue. Stamp sales circuit opens at 6:30 p.m and meetings start at 8:00 p.m. Contact Herb Letsche, tel: (416) 445-7720, fax: (416) 444-1273, or e-mail: ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.

**NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Chapter 21 meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from September to the 1st Wednesday in June, and on the 3rd Wednesday of July and August. Meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West (1 1/2 blocks west of Bathurst), Toronto, Ontario. Meetings feature a convivial atmosphere, speakers, auctions, a sales circuit, and a number of dealer members. Membership is only $10 per year. Ample parking is free. For more information, contact Art Halpert, tel. 416-643-2020 (days), 416-499-4406 (evenings/weekends), e-mail ahalpert@sympatico.ca

**NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB**
We invite you to join us at a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the auditoriam - lower level (except July & August). Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, NS B3H 3A6, www.nsstampclub.ca.

**OAKVILLE STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 135 meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, corner of Rebecca Street and Dorval Drive. Contact: Oakville Stamp Club, c/o Kenneth O'Connor, Secretary. Telephone (905) 469-6445.

**OTTAWA PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Chapter 16 meets every Thursday at 7:30pm, September to June at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario. Contact: Jack Gray, President. E-mail exoc@sympatico.ca. 3 Leonard Ave., Ottawa, ON K1S 4T6.

**OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 191 meets the 3rd Wed. at 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, 149 4th Ave. E. Trading, auctions, circuit books. Contact Robert J. Ford, 721 8th Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 3A4.

**OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY:**
Chapter 65 meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, September to May, at South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington Street South, Woodstock, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. Trading at 7:30 p.m. Program with speakers, mini auctions, dealers, contest with prizes and draws for all ages. Contact: Gib Stephens, P.O. Box 20113, Woodstock, ON N4S 8X8.

**PENTICTON AND DISTRICT STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 127 meets the 1st Sunday of each month, from Sept. to May, from 2-4 p.m. at the Penticton Library Auditorium, 785 Main St. Contact: Gordon Houston (Secretary), 298 Cambie Street, Penticton, BC V2A 4G8, e-mail: gordandlou@shaw.ca.

**PERTH STAMP CLUB**
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wed. Sept. to June, 7:30 p.m. in McMartin House, Gore Street. Contact Gus Quattrocchi (A.J.), 69 Harvey St., Perth, ON K7H 1X1.

**R.A. STAMP CLUB – OTTAWA**
Chapter 41 meets every Mon., except June to Aug. at 7:30 p.m. at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, ON K1H 7X7. Contact: (613) 733-5100.

**REGINA PHILATELIC CLUB**
Chapter 10 meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from Sept. to May, 7 - 10 p.m. at Cochrane High School in the teachers' staff room. Contact: P.O. Box 1891, Regina, SK S4P 3E1.

**ROYAL CITY STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 104 meets on the 2nd Thurs. except July and Aug., 7 p.m. at the New Westminster Public Library, 716-6th Ave., New Westminster, BC. Contact: Box 145, Milner, BC V0X 1T0. (604) 534-1884.

**SAINT JOHN STAMP CLUB**
Saint John Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm the fourth Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at the Atlantic Superstore, Millidgeville. Visitors and new members welcome. Please call 849-2250 for more information

**ST. CATHARINES STAMP CLUB**
Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tues. Sept. to June at Holy Cross secondary, St. Catharines, ON. Contact: Stuart Keeley, 15 Baxter Cres., Thorold, ON L2V 4S1, (905) 227-9251,.stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

**ST. JOHN'S PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Meets 2nd and 4th Wed., except July and Aug. at 8 p.m. at Marine Institute. Contact: Michael Deal, 107 Springdale St., St. John's, NL A1C 5B7. Tel: (709)754-2807. E-mail: mdeal@mun.ca

**SARNIA STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 45 meets on the 4th Sunday of the month, September through June, with the exception of December which is held on the 2nd. Sunday. Meetings are held at the Kinsmen Club of Sarnia at 656 Lakeshore Road in Sarnia, Ontario, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Activities include circuit books, silent auction, and dealers. Contact: Doug Fox at 1849 LaSalle Line, RR4, Sarnia, ON N7T 7H5. Telephone: (519) 332-0378.

**SASKATOON STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 80 meets the 2nd and 4th Mon. Sept. to May, 7-9 p.m. at the Saskatoon Public Library - Rusty McDonald Branch, 225 Primrose Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7K 5E4. Contact: secretary: Doug Smith, (306) 249-3092; e-mail: douglasmichaelsmith@shaw.ca.

**SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB**
Meets on the 1st Tues.at the Hanover Library Complex, 451 10th Ave., Hanover, ON. Contact: Bill Findlay, President, PO Box 1518, Durham, ON N0G 1R0, E-mail billfindlay@bmts.com, or Joanne Vogel, Vice-president, Box 663, Chesley, ON N0G 1L0, E-mail jimmyjo@bmts.com.

**SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 223 meets the 1st and 3rd Tues. Sept. to June at 7 p.m. at Cedarbrook Community Centre, Contact Don Beaumont, 22 Gregson Street, Ajax, ON L1T 3Z9.

**SIDNEY STAMP CLUB (SIDNEY, BC)**
The Sidney Stamp Club meets the 2nd Sat. except July and Aug., at the Sidney Regional Library, Nell Horth Room, at 2 p.m. Sales circuit, presentations, and auctions. Contact: (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 10 à Québec.Les réunions ont lieu de 19 h à 22 h du troisième mercredi de septembre au premier mercredi de juin. Information: écrire a SPQ, CP 70076, succ Québec-Centre, Québec, Qc G2J 0A1. Courriel: jp.forest@videotron.ca , site Web: www.s-p-q.org.

**LA SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE DE LA RIVE SUD**
Société membre No. 19. Réunions régulières tenus les 2e et 4e lundis débutant en septembre pour se terminer le 2e lundi de juir. De 19h30 à 21h00. Centre culturel, 100 ouest, rue St-Laurent, Longueuil, QC. Secrétaire Bernard Dansereau.

**STRATFORD STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 92 The Stratford Stamp Club meets on the 4th Thursday from September to June (except December when it meets on the 3rd Thursday), 7pm at the Stratford Kiwanis Community Centre, 111 Lakeside Drive, Stratford, Ontario. There is something of interest for all ages from beginner to the advance collector.Visitors are always welcome. For information please send inquiries to the following address: Stratford Stamp Club, Suite 273, 356 Ontario Street, Stratford, ON N5A 7X6, or contact William Gard 1-519-272-2842

**SUDBURY STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 85 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September through June at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Delki Dozzi Playground Fieldhouse. Slides, presentations, auction. Contact: Wm "Biff" Pilon at P.O. Box 2211, Station A, Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 4S1. E-mail: biffandbetty@sympatico.ca

**TORONTO HARMONIE STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 94 meets on the first Monday of the month, except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. in a member's house. New members or visitors are always welcome. For further information, contact Jake Doehler, 6 Monmouth Court, Scarborough, ON M1H 2T5. Tel: 416-438-4862, e-mail: bimlidoehler@hotmail.com.

**TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Meets the 2nd Thurs. Sept. to June at 7:30 p.m. at the Sobey's community room, Prince St., for a general meeting followed by a program and auction. Fourth Thurs is trading night.

**L'UNION DES PHILATÉLISTES DE MONTRÉAL**
Le chapitre no. 3 de la Société se réunit à 19 h 00 tous les 2es et 4es mardis de septembre à juin au 7355, boulevard Christophe-Colomb, Montréal, QC, H2R 2S5. Visiteurs bienvenus. / Chapter 3 meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tues. from September to June at 7355 Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Montreal, QC, H2R 2S5. Visitors welcome.

**VANCOUVER ISLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Chapter 52, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Thurs. at St. Aidan's Church Hall, 3707 St. Aidan's St., Victoria, BC. Contact R. Clarke, Sec., Vancouver Island Philatelic Society, 205 - 651 Jolly Pl, Victoria, BC, V8Z 6R9.

**WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB**
Chapter 14 meets 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tues. except July and Aug., 7:30 p.m. at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, Auctions, dealers, speakers, study group, annual exhibition. Contact: 331 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9B 2L9. Frank Alusio, (416) 621-8232.

**WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thurs. except July and Aug. Deaf Centre of Manitoba, Meeting Room, 285 Pembina Hwy. Contact: Rick Penko, 3793 Vialoux Dr., Winnipeg, MB R3R 0A5, e-mail: rpenko@shaw.ca.

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*Pour que votre événement soit listé dans cette section du Philatéliste canadien veuillez envoyer tous les détails au Bureau national de la SRPC, C.P. 929, Succ. 'Q', Toronto, ON M4T 2P1. Les détails peuvent être faxés au 1-888-285-4143 ou par poste-électronique à info@rpsc.org. Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC.*

## REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

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

**JUNE 21 JUIN, 2008:**
BC 150 - British Columbia Philatelic Society's One Day Summer Stamp Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Featuring 8 dealers, exhibits, prize draws, free admission. For further information e-mail Derren at verdraco@uniserve.com or Trevor at nanbellcan@netscape.net.

**AUGUST 23 AOÛT, 2008:**
The Muskoka Stamp Club's 8th annual exhibition MUSPEX 2008 will be held from 10 am to 4 pm at the Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Drive, Bracebridge, ON. Dealers, exhibits, silent auction, and door prizes. Free admission and parking. Information from Larry Matthews at muskokapost@sympatico.ca.

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

## NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

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

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

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

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

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

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

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

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

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

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

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

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

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# Transcribing Sounds

by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC

## SIGN LANGUAGE: Historical Notes and Observations

The purpose of human communications is the transfer of information from one person to another. Spoken language develops as a result of exposure to a community of people who use it in various social settings. It is not homogenous and differs from community to community by pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and the specific needs to communicate various functions. Even some animals learn to respond to human sounds, e.g. hearing aid dogs, seeing eye dogs, monkeys aiding paraplegics,etc.

Non-verbal language depends on facial expressions, eye contact, body posture, emotions and the gestures or motions produced by hands. Sign language, not unlike its oral counterpart, is a systematic, conventional language developed by deaf people substituting oral expressions with signing. It is quite natural that the signs used by one community will not necessarily have the identical or even similar meaning for another. Hearing aid dogs, in addition to learning to respond to outside sounds, have to learn their masters' gestures and motions in order to be able to assist them.

The theory that speech grew out of gestural language, while widely accepted, has never been proven scientifically. Mention of it can be found in the biblical injunction that *thou shall not curse the deaf,* Leviticus 19:14. A cure or remedy was further prophesied in Isaiah 35:5, .. .*the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

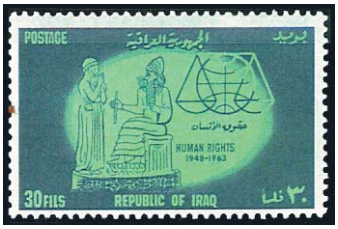
The Code of Hammurabi, 1792-1750 BCE, regulated medical practice and devoted 12case laws out of 281 to medical matters including fees and malpractice. Illness, in ancient Babylon, was thought to be caused by gods or an imbalance of supernatural forces. Sickness was named after the alleged author of it. The Code also recognized that some illnesses may be caused by organ malfunction. The latter included paralysis, blindness and deafness.

The reference to deafness and other illnesses, in the Code of Hammurabi, were designed to allay fears and superstitions of the Babylonians. It is interesting to note that the Code itself skipped the No.13 which was considered unlucky! The rules of conduct in the *Bible*, despite pronouncements of protection and hope (see above) excluded children of hereditary priests from service in the Temple: ... *he shall not approach: a blind man, or lame* ..., Leviticus 21:18.

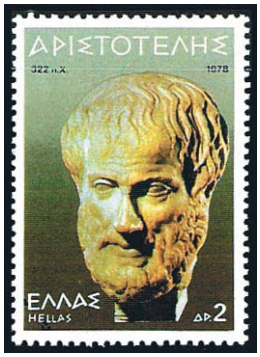
Croesus, King of Lydia, 560-546 BCE, denied paternity to a son born deaf. Plateo, 429-347 BCE, held that people who cannot speak cannot exhibit their intelligence. His pupil Aristotle, 384-322 BCE, extended this by saying that people who cannot hear are not able to learn. Nearly 1,500 years later, Maimonides, 1135-1204 CE, a follower of Aristotelian teachings, differed from his distant mentor by defining deafness as deprivation of some real, positive object, not evil. He echoes Herodotus, 5 BCE, who taught that *what matters the deafness of the ears when mind hears?*

The *Bible* Scrolls of Law.

Coins minted by King Croesus.




Hammurabi, King of Babylon and a god from a stele (an inscribde pillar) in Louvres. Ex Dr. J. Powell.




Aristotle – philosopher, poet, writer.

Maimonides – physician, philosopher, rabbi.

# Course at WESTPEX Among the Spring Attractions from the Education Department at the APS

Hard on the heels of the recent success of "The Essentials of Aerophilately" – a two-day course October 17-18, 2007, at the American Philatelic Center – the Education Department of the American Philatelic Society has unveiled the first of its planned offerings for collectors in the year to come.

Spring 2008 saw the initial APS "traveling tutorial" – an intensive course offered on the road in conjunction with a World Series of Philately stamp show. Veteran APS instructor Dennis Gilson offered a two-day version of his popular Summer Seminar course on "The Washington-Franklin Issues" on Wednesday, April 23, and Thursday, April 24, 2008, immediately prior to Westpex 2008 April 25-27 in San Francisco, California. This course is not just for the expert collector, but for anyone who has collected or wants to collect these classic issues. A minimum of eight students were required for the course to be held. Registrants were given one month's notice in order for them to have sufficient time to arrange for transportation and accommodations, which are not included. The course fee is $195 for APS members, and $295 for non-members. Details of "The Washington-Franklin Issues," included a link for online registration, were available at www.stamps.org/Education/edu_Courses.htm

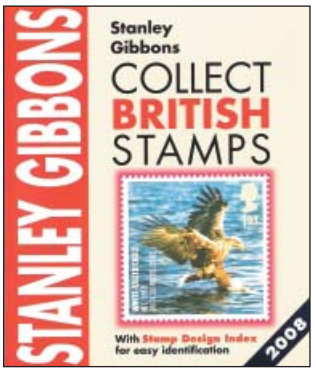
The first 2008 weekend courses at the American Philatelic Center are "Collecting Revenues" with Ron Lesher and "Collecting First Day Covers" with Lloyd de Vries. Lesher is past president of the American Revenues Association, former APS Director at Large, a Director of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and longtime revenues columnist online and in the weekly philatelic press. De Vries, First Vice President of the American First Day Cover Society and a past APS Secretary and Director-at-Large, has written columns on first day covers for more than 20 years for the weekly philatelic press. He manages The Virtual Stamp Club online, and produces a weekly radio stamp collecting report for CBS News. Since 1983, he has produced his own line of first day of issue cards, and for about eight years, was a weekend bourse dealer selling FDCs and related material.

The courses were offered Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, 2008, in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Planning is well under way for the 28th Annual Summer Seminar on Philately, June 22-27, at APS Headquarters. Since 1980, these annual conclaves of like-minded collectors have become a mainstay of the stamp hobby, spreading philatelic fellowship and imparting the latest thinking and knowledge through intensive, expert lectures and hands-on workshops.

To learn more about these and other educational opportunities, contact Gretchen Moody by e-mail at gretchen@stamps.org or call 814-933-3810.

# BOOK REVIEWS
# OUVRAGES PARUS




## COLLECT BRITISH STAMPS

Published by Stanley Gibbons (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH). ISBN 10:0-85259-664-2 and ISBN 13:978-85259-664-7. Glossy soft cover, 232 pages; 164X194mm. Retail price £9.95. Orders can be placed by telephone:01425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

The 2008 *Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps* is the publisher's 59th edition. Issued in full colour throughout, sales of this popular checklist have exceeded 3.8 million copies worldwide since its introduction in 1967. And for good reason. It is well laid out, visually pleasing, and comprehensive. The all-encompassing Commemorative Design Index introduced in last year's edition is again included and updated to include issues from 1953 to November 2007.

Although this work, published in late fall, is an extensive checklist it is, understandably, not as comprehensive as its more detailed sister publication, *The Great Britain Concise* catalogue released each spring. Nevertheless, it comes complete with a listing of every British stamp from the Penny Black to the end of 2007. All commemorative issues are fully illustrated. Also included in this edition are first day covers, presentation packs, year-books, Philatelic Numismatic and Philatelic Medallic covers produced in association with the Royal Mint.

For the watermarks specialists and perforation enthusiasts, the catalogue lists all stamps with different watermarks and perforations. Nor are details overlooked, such as the visible plate numbers on the Victorian issues, graphite-lined and phosphor issues, including the variations in the numbers of phosphor bands.

Listed stamp prices reflect today's market for British issues. A number of significant increases across many issues reflect the current popularity of the stamps of Great Britain.

Also listed in this latest price list are the regional issues of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands, including the War Occupation issues of Guernsey and Jersey.

For collectors of the stamps of Great Britain, this newly updated catalogue is one that they will not want to be without. At a very competitively priced £9.95, we have no hesitation in recommending it.

**Tony Shaman**

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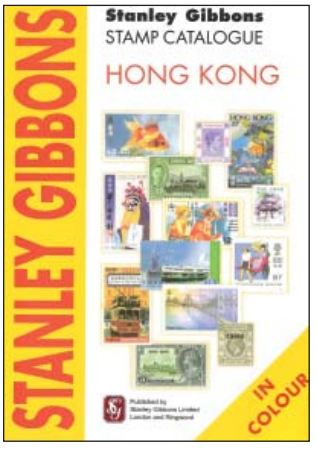


## STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE HONG KONG

Published by Stanley Gibbons (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH). ISBN 10:0-85259-669-3 and ISBN 13:978-0-85259-669-2. Softbound cover, 44 pages; 8¼ X 11¾ inches. Retail price £9.95. Orders can be placed by telephone:01425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

This latest Hong Kong price list continues the firm's One-Country catalogue series. Listed in this 2nd edition, for the convenience of collectors of Hong Kong stamps, are also the stamps of the Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, issued from July 1, 1997. Also listed are postage dues, postcard stamps, postal fiscals, stamp booklets, Japanese occupation stamps and Hong Kong stamps used in the British Post Offices in China and Japan.

Because this catalogue also doubles as a retail price list for stamps sold by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, it includes an eight-page section of philatelic information and guidelines.

Prices for stamp issues to 1970 were taken from the publisher's 2008 Commonwealth and British Empire Stamp Catalogue; subsequent issues were specifically priced for this latest edition.

Mint and used stamps only are priced and prices are subject to change. Furthermore, if the condition of a stamp is not as described, the amount paid will be refunded as outlined in the company's guarantee policy. Essentially, the stamps' list prices are the publisher's estimated selling prices at the time of the catalogue's publication. As outlined under the publisher's sales terms and conditions, prices are for examples "in fine condition for the issue concerned."

Also included in this latest price list are watermark variations, shades, surcharges, and machine labels. Stamp book-

let listings run from January 1, 1904 to the more affordable releases issued up to and including the December 31, 2006 issues. Postage due stamps are listed beginning with the 1923 releases and continue to 2004. All are priced for mint and used copies. Virtually all stamp images throughout the catalogue are illustrated in full colour.

These reasonably priced One-Country Stanley Gibbons catalogues, now numbering well over a dozen in the series, are excellent alternatives to the more comprehensive and much higher-priced publications. They are recommended for philatelists whose collecting interests are limited to the stamps of a specific country or group of countries as well as for individuals wishing to expand their collecting horizons.

**Tony Shaman**

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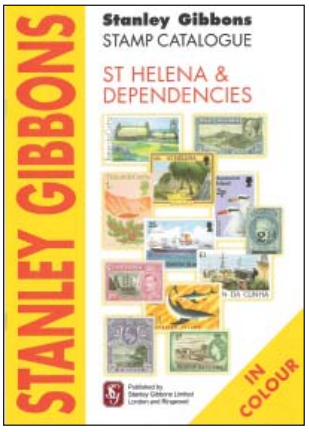


## STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE: ST. HELENA & DEPENDENCIES

Published by Stanley Gibbons (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH) ISBN 10: 0-85259-671-5 and ISBN 13: 978-0-85259-671-5 Glossy soft cover; 55 pages. 220 X 297mm. Retail price £9.95. Orders can be placed by telephone:01425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

The third edition of St. Helena & Dependencies one-country catalogue produced by Stanley Gibbons, as with other catalogues in this series, is an all-colour production. In addition to the stamps of St. Helena, the catalogue also lists the Crown Colony's two stamp issuing Dependencies: Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. A brief summary provides a concise but useful overview of the postal histories of both Dependencies.

The Ascension section includes a selection of five illustrated handstamps along with a listing of their approximate dates of use. Although forged postmarks do exist, most forgeries consist of genuine handstamps into which forgers have fraudulently inserted earlier date slugs. Prices are given for sample strikes on British stamps for each of the five different types of cancels. Also provided are factors that can be used to determine the price of stamps on cover.

Listed adhesives begin with the 1922 issue and carry through to the Mother Theresa and Princess Diana issue released on August 31, 2007.

Like the Ascension section, the Tristan da Cunha section begins with an illustrated listing of its handstamps which covers the period 1908 to 1962. Although values are given for cacheted covers, actual sales prices may vary considerably due to their scarcity and their varying condition. Tristan da Cunha began issuing its own stamps in 1952. Listed prices were specially repriced for this section of the catalogue.

St. Helena itself began issuing adhesive stamps in 1856. List prices for issues up to 1970 are from S*tanley Gibbons 2008 Commonwealth and Empire Stamp Catalogue*. Subsequent issues are specially priced for this volume.

Each section includes booklets and postage due stamps. Readers should note that list prices are for stamps in fine condition unless stated otherwise. Only prices for mint and used copies are given.

Printed on high-gloss paper, the catalogue offers readers excellently reproduced illustrations in full colour. The text is crisp and printed in easy-to-read type. At a price of only £9.95, it is a work that we can definitely recommend for all collectors with an interest in the stamps and postmarks of St. Helena and its Dependencies.

**Tony Shaman**

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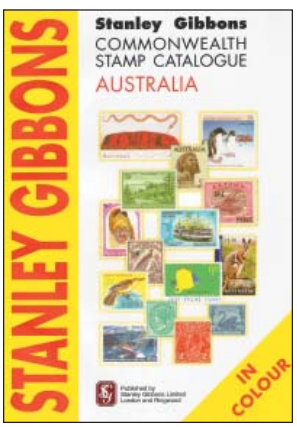


## STANLEY GIBBONS COMMONWEALTH STAMP CATALOGUE AUSTRALIA

Published by Stanley Gibbons (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH) ISBN 10: 0-85259-666-9 and ISBN 13: 978-0-85259-666-1, Glossy soft cover; 160 pages. 220 X 297mm. Retail price £19.95. Orders can be placed by telephone:01425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

The 4th edition of *Stanley Gibbons Australia* price list released on November 30, 2007, similar to the firm's other One-Country catalogues, is printed in full colour. In addition to the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia, initially issued January 1913, this new catalogue lists the colonial issues of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia.

Complementing the 160-page catalogue are the issues of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Japan), Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and the pre-independence issues for Nauru (to 1968), New Guinea, Papua and Papua New Guinea (to 1975) to make this listing a comprehensive and valuable reference work for collectors pursuing the postage stamps of these geographic regions.

Listings are at a level that is similar in detail to those contained in the British Commonwealth Part 1 Catalogue. Prices are given for stamps in fine condition for mint and used copies. Also illustrated and priced are Australia's attractive stamp booklets issued from 1913 up to the Australian Botanic Gardens booklet released on September 12, 2007, including the country's two military booklets issued in 1967 and 1968.

A three-page design index is a nice touch for researchers and collectors of thematic stamps.

Australia's postage due stamps, issued between 1902 and 1932, complete the Commonwealth of Australia section of the catalogue.

The International Philatelic Glossary consisting of three pages of the hobby's main terms in English, German, Italian, and Spanish gives this publication a worldwide appeal and makes it user-friendly for non-English-speaking collectors.

Although this price list is considered a one-country listing it contains a considerable number of stamp-issuing administrations, as outlined above, and for that reason a contents index would have been useful.

This fully illustrated and expertly assembled work appears reasonably priced at £19.95 and we have no hesitation in recommending it to collectors with an interest in the stamps of Australia and of related stamp-issuing administrations.

**Tony Shaman**

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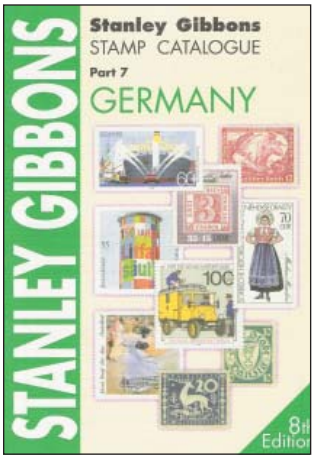



## STAMP CATALOGUE PART 7 GERMANY

Published by Stanley Gibbons (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH). ISBN 10:0-85259-672-3 and ISBN 13:978-0-85259-672-2. Glossy soft cover, 424 pages; 214X146 mm. Retail price £29.95. Orders can be placed by telephone:01425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

*The 8th edition of the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 7 Germany* is the first reprint since 2005. This latest edition is an all-colour publication except for the very first German States that are still reproduced in black and white. Also, for the first time, the catalogue includes the stamps issued during the German occupation of the Channel Islands, Jersey and Guernsey.

Given the popularity of the stamps of Germany, prices have been updated to reflect current market conditions. According to information provided by the publisher, quoted prices are for stamps in fine condition. Stamps of a better quality than fine sell for more; stamps graded poorer than fine sell for less.

Prices are given for mint and used copies.

Included in this 424-page price list are the stamps of the German States, Germany from 1871 onward, with the most recent listings including issues released in September 2007. Also listed are Berlin labels and booklets, German Occupation issues 1914 to 1918 and 1939 to 1945, the stamps of the former German colonial administration including Cameroun, Caroline Islands, German East Africa, German New Guinea, and German South-West Africa, Post Offices in China, Morocco, the Turkish Empire, Kiaochow, Mariana Island and Marshal Islands, Samoa, and Togo.

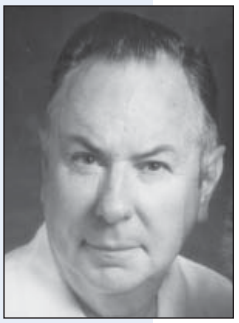
Given the complexity of the various stamps released since 1850 when Prussia, Saxony, and Schleswig-Holstein printed their first adhesive stamps, the explanatory notes that accompany the illustrations in each section of the catalogue are a thoughtful touch for users: they make this publication a more user-friendly catalogue.

Because Stanley Gibbons is also a stamp retailer, the company's price and refund policies are outlined in the catalogue. Another useful feature is the six-page section providing general philatelic information and guidelines explaining the catalogue's scope. For instance, it includes technical terms that describe the various stamps printings, varieties, papers, gum, colour, shades and other terms that are relevant to stamp collectors.

A five-page International Philatelic Glossary listing common philatelic terms in English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian is another useful feature that benefits non-English-speaking collectors.

This latest edition, a comprehensive and quality publication, will serve not only as a current price list but also as a philatelic reference that collectors of the stamps of Germany and its one-time colonies will find invaluable in the pursuit of their hobby.

**Tony Shaman**



## in my OPINION
## a mon AVIS

*by George B. Arfken, FRPSC*

# What is Postal History

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* is on my computer so I asked it for "Postal History." There were many pages of postal systems, development and operations but "Postal History" was not listed. Then I tried Wikipedia and it had, "Postal History is the study of the development of postal systems." That's pretty broad. The Wikipedia adds, "The term has also come to refer to collections of covers and other material illustrating episodes in postal history."

Let's see what two respected postal historians have written or said. The legendary Allan Steinhart has given two definitions:

1. *"Postal history is the study of anything connected with the postal service, except the stamps themselves."*

2. *"Postal history is everything that's on the cover except the stamp."*

Actually postal historians do want the denomination of the stamp. Gray Scrimgeour prefers:

3. *"Postal History is information regarding the delivery of mail" and "A postal history artifact is an item that demonstrates the method of mail delivery."*

We could stop here but the situation is a bit complicated. We have three different areas of postal history that call for three different definitions! They are:

1. Postal History collecting;
2. Postal history writing; and
3. Postal history exhibiting,

We'll look at exhibiting first. Exhibiting at the international level is controlled by the FIP (Fédération de Philatélie). FIP standards and regulations have considerable influence at the national level. The FIP definition and regulations for postal history are given in the FIP website[1]. FIP's definition comes as a description:

*Postal History exhibits contain material carried by, and related to, official, local or private mails. Such exhibits generally emphasize routes, rates, markings, usages and other postal aspects, services, functions and activities related to the history of the development of Postal Services.*

A Postal History exhibit consists of used covers and letters, used postal stationery, used postage stamps, and other postal documents so arranged as to illustrate a balanced plan as a whole or to develop any aspect of postal history.

That last sentence mentions used covers but what about maps, pictures of post office buildings, and so on? That is covered in the following regulations.

*Postal History exhibits may contain, where strictly necessary, maps, prints, decrees and similar associated materials. Such items must have direct relation to the chosen subject and to the postal services described in the exhibit.*

*Maps, proclamations etc., used only if relevant to the development and documentation, should be restricted in number and the judges should in principle only evaluate the philatelic material shown.*

The FIP recognizes different classes of mail matter for exhibiting and each class has its own set of regulations. The Postal History class strongly emphasizes covers. If you want to add a lot of supplementary material to your exhibit, you really should pick an exhibiting class that encourages supplementary material such as the Display Class.

Writers should be aware of FIP definitions and regulations but are not limited or bound by them. The writer may and often does add supplementary material to clarify what has been written or to grab the reader's interest. My Small Queen book has many maps by Kimmo Salonen to show the routes. The book with Charles Firby on Nova Scotia and New Brunswick pence covers has two Kimmo Salonen maps to show the locations of the principle towns of these provinces. A postal history book for the years 1897 - 1911, with Bill Pawluk, includes extended descriptions of J.C. Wilson, William Mulock and Henry Hechler. These would be out of place in an exhibit but they fit in well and add to the book.

For postal history collectors, Steinhart's second definition and Scrimgeour's postal history artifact definition will serve very well. Think of those definitions and then go ahead and trade or buy whatever appeals to you, and what your wallet permits. The FIP has no control over what you collect and very little effect on exhibiting at the local level. Still, you might find that it would be worthwhile to call up the FIP Website and see the examples of postal history collections. You will find that the field of postal history is incredibly broad.

**[1] The FIP website is http://www.f-i-p.ch/. Choose Regulations and then, on a drop-down menu, click SREV. The internet pages can be printed as a pdf file.**

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