VOLUME XIV NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1963
WHOLE NUMBER 78

The CANADIAN PHILATELIST

Famous Stamps

The Straits Settlements
$500 Edward VII

Journal of the
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY of CANADA

THIS MONTH'S ROUNDUP

September 1, 1963.

Dear Friends:

In April, 1961, I visited Chatham, Ontario, to value a large 39 volume world collection. At lunch time, my host invited me to a home cooked bass dinner that would satisfy the most fastidious gourmet. Late in the afternoon I completed my valuation, which was frankly disappointing to the owner and we couldn't make a deal. He said that he would try elsewhere for a better price and I wished him luck and we parted friends. This June, just two years and two months later, this collection came to me at my original price and the deal was completed. The moral of this story is that you might not get quite as much as you want for your stamps but, at least, I will always do my best to give you top market value.

On a very hot Monday morning in mid-July, a dealer drove his car up to our back door and unloaded 26 very large stock books filled with mint new issues of the world and five albums of mint U.S. "How much will you offer for the lot? he asked. "Impossible to say on a snap appraisal—there are just too many stamps," I replied, "but if you leave them for valuation I promise to have it done by Friday."

It took until Friday noon to complete the work, having actually made detailed inventories of the contents. A long distance call to the owner completed the deal and our cheque was mailed the same day. Since then, he has expressed a large lot of mint Canada and a fine stock of mint U.S., a lot of miniature sheets and foreign sets, all of which have been purchased.

Years ago, a large percentage of our purchases was for Canada used stamps, mostly common, by the tens of thousands. These came from missions, charity organizations, business firms, and so on. We also had a contract with the Canadian Bank of Commerce for years and I remember getting the 50¢ Bluenose, the $1.00 Parliaments, and the $1.00 Cavells, etc., by the thousands, many in large blocks. In one deal in 1938 we bought over 15,000,000 Canadian stamps from the old Marks Stamp Co. on Spadina Ave. Well, those days represented an era that has long since passed and nowadays we rarely have this sort of material offered to us. However, this month two separate lots were brought in across our counter. One had 5¢ Postal Union, 5¢ Royal William, 10¢ Loyalists and others of that period in good quantities, all neatly enveloped in hundreds and in fine condition. The other lot had large quantities of other values of the period 1928-1935. We still buy this material although Father says "Why?". Well, I'm hooked, I just can't help myself. If stamps are for sale, I want them, and that's all there is to it. What have you got for sale? We will see what Father has to say about your stamps.

I rather like some of the smaller collections purchased this month and will give you a brief report. There was a 4 volume, mint Canadian, beautifully mounted with blocks and plate blocks. The E. Wood's collection of used British colonies in one large ledger album was very strong in high values. From a very old customer of Marks Stamp Co. came a Canadian collection along with copies of the Emco Journal dating back to 1920. In the Hamel collection was a nice range of mint Canadian Admirals and coils. The MacKenzie Naughton collection in 8 albums contained good B.N.A. and British colonies with many fine and unusual items with Pound values in the older issues.

News of the Empire building programme is disappointing because the local strikes have forced our contractor to postpone starting the work. By the way, beginning on Sept. 7th, our store will be open on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and I invite you to come and visit — soon!

Philatelically Yours,

Harry Marks

Empire Stamp Corporation Limited

1150 YONGE STREET • TORONTO, CANADA

(Telephone WA. 1-8967)

The
CANADIAN PHILATELIST

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 5
SEPT.-OCT., 1963
WHOLE NUMBER 78

Editor:
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222 Lawrence Avenue West
Toronto 12, Ontario

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Half page	15.00	13.00
Quarter page	10.00	8.00
Eighth page	6.00	4.00

Deadline for advertising copy: FIRST OF MONTH preceding publication date.

The Editor Speaks Out . . .

ON ANOTHER PAGE, we have reproduced the new type slogan cancellation introduced by the British P.O. at Bath on the 1st July, showing the slogan on the left of the stamp and the date stamp on the stamp itself.

There is no doubt that this is a great improvement, if, of course, the slogan is of any value at all.

We happen to see quite a few commercial covers in the course of the year and we would say that fully 90 per cent of the slogans are incomplete, too faint to be read or illlegible partly or in full when the stamp is of a dark colour.

On the other hand, of course, the date may be almost invisible when placed on the stamp and this has a certain importance. The question is therefore: "which is the more important, the date or the slogan?"

☆ ☆ ☆

Your editor had the pleasure of seeing our president, "Doc Geldert" once again in Ottawa recently and having an interesting talk with him.

The question was raised of the "progressive aging" of some of our directors and officers and the coming need to replace them in the near future.

There has been much talk in the past few years of danger of retiring men at 65 and "leaving them to their own devices", thus making them "run to seed" and bored stiff with nothing to do.

Here is therefore a splendid opportunity for any members, now retired or about to retire, to offer themselves for a fascinating and interesting task in directing the fortunes of the Royal Philatelic Society.

We can assure anyone placed in such a

fortunate situation, that he (or she) would find his task most rewarding and interesting.

"Doc" would be delighted to hear from any retired or about to retire member who would like to do something for the Society.

☆ ☆ ☆

There have been some remarks made to us criticizing the registration fees at the Niagara Falls Convention, which seems to indicate something of a lack of thought on the part of such critics.

Just in case they do not realize it, the Sheraton-Brock Hotel charged the Society for the accomodation used. Our total bill was close to $2,000. If we do not recover the expense in the shape of a registration fee, where would we get the money?

Also, for the benefit of others who have rather queer ideas, every officer and director of the Society paid his registration fee, and his dinner ticket, and his transportation and other expenses.

☆ ☆ ☆

We happened to be talking to one of our members (one of our finest collectors incidentally), recently, just at the time when we were looking for stamps or photos to illustrate an article on old cars (which will appear soon in CP if it does not do so in this issue), and happened to mention this, and to our astonishment, this member said he had both the Monaco and the San Marino stamps showing some of the early automobiles.

This led us to muse somewhat on the sometimes surprising "secret sins" of philatelists, which we have come across in our time. We recall the time, ten years or so ago, when we were flirting with the idea of getting up a collection of Tibet and noted in a copy of the COLLECTORS' CLUB PHILATELIST an announcement of Haverbeck's masterly treatise on the stamps of that country. We promptly ordered it and a day or two after receiving it, took it along to the club and showing it to one or two cronies, we were more than astonished to discover that no less than three other members of the club were also collecting Tibet, and interested to the point of buying Haverbeck's handbook!

☆ ☆ ☆

We received recently a cutting of Art McIntyre's column in the Edmonton Journal of July 27, wherein we note that Monaco is issuing, among other things, two stamps commerating the 50th anniversary of the TOUR de FRANCE, the famous bicycle road race which takes place every year in France and a sporting event in which we still take a great interest. One of the stamps ccommemorates the winner of the first race held in 1903, Henri Garin, who, incidentally died not long ago at a very ripe age, and another shows the monument which stands at the summit of the Galibier Pass, at nearly 9000 feet, in honour of Henri Desgranges, the man who organized the race until his death in the early thirties.

It may be a bit sentimental on our part, but we must admit to a feeling of pleasure at seeing some of the great sporting figures of our youth thus honoured.

(Maybe this sentiment should be classed among the "secret sins" we mention in the preceding item!)

☆ ☆ ☆

We hear that, for the second time, a common stamp is in prospect by the Post Office Departments of Canada and the United States, in the shape of a commemorative stamp to celebrate the 150 years of peace between our two countries since the conclusion of the War 1812-14. This will be issued next year.

This new stamp was mentioned at the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs exhibition which was held recently in Tacoma, by Robert Clifton, of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

As usual, on the Canadian side, nary a word! Thanks to Art McIntyre of the Edmonton Journal for this bit of information, but not to anyone in Ottawa!

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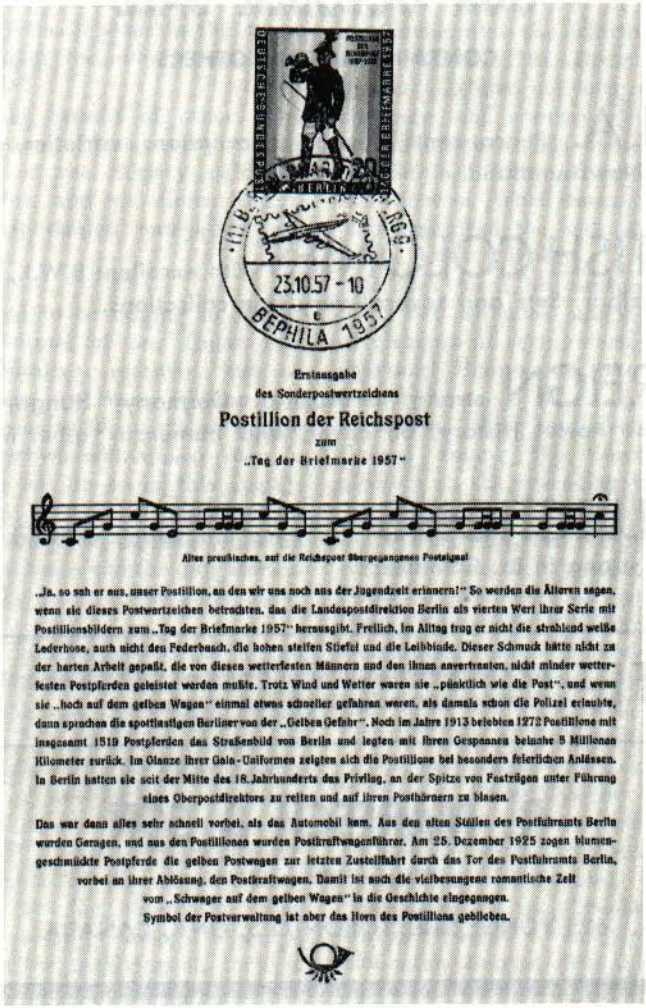
Berlin First Day Sheets

By HARRIET SAALHEIMER, RPSC 7687

European collectors are said to be better philatelists than we North Americans. Among them are certainly fewer who have acquired the deplorable habit of hoarding stamps with the hope for easy profits.

There may be several reasons for this development. But at least one European postal authority has greatly contributed to getting collectors better acquainted with the raison d'être of their stamps: West Berlin.

To me, Berlin stamps have always had a very special appeal. Not only is Berlin one of the very few cities which nowadays issue their own stamps. Berlin stamps are superbly executed and their design compares favourably with



the best.

The first Berlin stamps were issued in 1948. When we speak of Berlin, we mean of course West Berlin. In the Soviet Sector of the now divided city, the stamps of the Soviet Zone of Germany now known as the "German Democratic Republic" have always been used.

From March 1, 1949, till January 26, 1955, Berlin had its own official First Day Covers. A total of 33 different FDCs were issued during this time. Those of the early years—1949/50—are now very scarce.

In place of its official FDCs in 1956, West Berlin started to issue, in addition to its FDCs, so-called official "Ersttagsblätter" (ETBs), or First Day Sheets. Although the translation of "Blätter" by sheets is correct, the word sheet might be misleading for English-speaking collectors. When they hear of "sheets" they will automatically think of gummed souvenir sheets. But the Berlin ETBs are something different, as you will see.

In the course of three years a total of 43 ETBs were issued. The first one appeared on January 7, 1956—the last one on May 6th, 1959.

As many philatelists on this side of the ocean may never have had an opportunity to see an ETB, here is a description.

The sheets are of uniform size: 5¾ x 8¼ inches. On each one stamp is mounted and cancelled with a special cancellation. When two stamps were issued as a series, both were mounted on one and the same sheet.

Directly below the stamp is a brief reference to the issue. Beneath one finds a more detailed explanatory text, running to 15 or 20 lines.

Good use has also been made of the back of the ETBs. There the names of the artist and engraver can be found, as well as the printing method, size of stamp, and paper and watermark used. One can also read there that ETBs are issued free on request to oblige patrons with a cancellation of the stamp on the reverse side.

Finally, below all this, there is a sales blurb of the Berlin Philatelic Sales Agency offering to supply collectors regularly with new issues.

It is worth mentioning that despite so much information, the extent of the stamp issue is not indicated.

The philatelic information on the Berlin ETBs is of course in German. There is one exception however. The history of the stamp for the Seventh General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation is explained in three languages, German, English and French. As 134 member associations from 35 countries took part at this meeting, the postal authorities probably wanted as many people as possible to understand the text.

Each Berlin ETB looks attractive and reflects great care and exceptionally good taste. The layout is never the same and different means are employed to convey the informative text. Here are just a few examples:

Each ETB of the "Famous People" series is a treat for autograph hunters. In addition to the text, the signature of the person pictured is shown.

The Berlin stamp issued for the 1959 "Day of the Stamp", depicts a mail carrier with a postal horn. The ETB for this stamp shows a few bars of music, namely the "signature tune" Prussian mail carriers used to blow in times gone by.

A stamp was issued in honour of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the well-known Berlin poet Heinrich Zille. The ETB has an amusing poem in the

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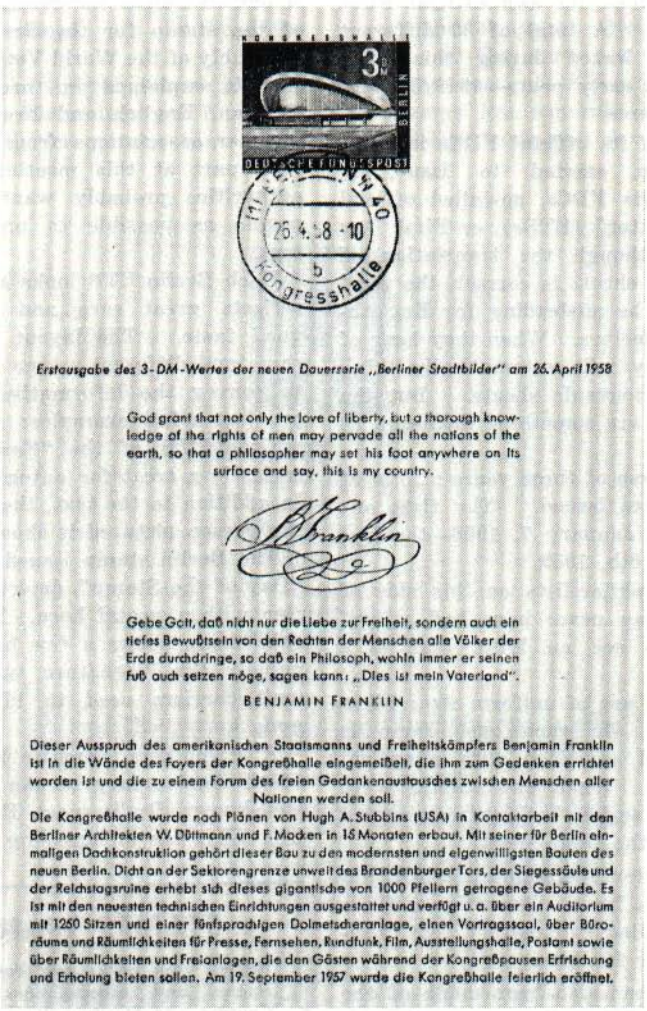
typical Zille dialect and Zille's autograph.

There is another ETB which has some English text, namely the one of the 3 DM stamp showing the Berlin Congress Hall. For an introduction the ETB contains some words by freedom fighter Benjamin Franklin, which have been hewn into the walls of the hall, erected in Franklin's honour.

With so much easy-to-absorb information, the Berlin ETBs cannot help being read and reread every time a collector handles them. Without realizing it, instead of turning hoarders, collectors become well informed and true philatelists.



Erstausgabe des 3-DM-Wertes der neuen Dauerserie „Berliner Stadtbilder" am 26. April 1958

God grant that not only the love of liberty, but a thorough knowledge of the rights of men may pervade all the nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface and say, this is my country.

B. Franklin

Gebe Gott, daß nicht nur die Liebe zur Freiheit, sondern auch ein tiefes Bewußtsein von den Rechten der Menschen alle Völker der Erde durchdringe, so daß ein Philosoph, wohin immer er seinen Fuß auch setzen möge, sagen kann: „Dies ist mein Vaterland".

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Dieser Ausspruch des amerikanischen Staatsmanns und Freiheitskämpfers Benjamin Franklin ist in die Wände des Foyers der Kongreßhalle eingemeißelt, die ihm zum Gedenken errichtet worden ist und die zu einem Forum des freien Gedankenaustausches zwischen Menschen aller Nationen werden soll.

Die Kongreßhalle wurde nach Plänen von Hugh A. Stubbins (USA) in Kontaktarbeit mit den Berliner Architekten W. Düttmann und F. Mocken in 16 Monaten erbaut. Mit seiner für Berlin einmaligen Dachkonstruktion gehört dieser Bau zu den modernsten und eigenwilligsten Bauten des neuen Berlin. Dicht an der Sektorengrenze unweit des Brandenburger Tors, der Siegessäule und der Reichstagsruine erhebt sich dieses gigantische von 1000 Pfeilern getragene Gebäude. Es ist mit den neuesten technischen Einrichtungen ausgestattet und verfügt u. a. über ein Auditorium mit 1250 Sitzen und einer fünfsprachigen Dolmetscheranlage, einen Vortragssaal, über Büroräume und Räumlichkeiten für Presse, Fernsehen, Rundfunk, Film, Ausstellungshalle, Postamt sowie über Räumlichkeiten und Freianlagen, die den Gästen während der Kongreßpausen Erfrischung und Erholung bieten sollen. Am 19. September 1957 wurde die Kongreßhalle feierlich eröffnet.

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YOUR SALES DEPARTMENT

This note to all members of the Society making use of the Sales Circuit is written early in July, before leaving on my holidays. It is first a short report on the activities of the Sales Department during the 1962-63 season.

In circulation, over 8700 books went out to clubs and members during the year, compared to 6190 for the 1961-62 season. The volume of sales showed an increase of some 30%. New books received amounted to 1206, some good, some average, and some terrible. All of them got a fair break in circulation from this Department, and naturally the good material was rapidly picked up, and some left untouched. With the increase in circulation, a corresponding increase in work has resulted, and as the Sales Department is most of the time a one man staff, the daily increase of hours on the job has also lengthened. The assistant we had trained to help, went and got married, and she has left me pretty well stranded for the next philatelic season. So right now, I am asking for your indulgence. I'll do my best as in the past, but the days are only 24 hours long and I have to sleep sometime.

This article will appear in the September - October issue of **The Canadian Philatelist**, at a time when everybody starts thinking about fall, winter and stamps, and to all of you I am sending this message:

"After the great increase in sales of the past season, the stock has been well depleted, and unless the members get out their stockbooks and start making books for the Circuit, it will be a disappointing one for the Circuit. But please, this doesn't mean to put in the books stamps that are damaged, creased, straight edges, or used stamps uncleaned with dirty cancellations, and with the paper still stuck on the back. These have not sold in the past, and will not sell in the future, and you're taking the chance of having them returned as non-acceptable." Blank books are available at one dollar a dozen.,

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Queens. We will take Large Queens and give you thanks for them. If you have pence or High values 1897 Jubilees we'll love you. Precancels and Officals are wanted, they sold well last season and the stock is minus.

2—British Colonies: There seems to be a new interest in these after a few years of let down. What's wanted mostly is B.W.I., British Africa, Australia, New Zealand, but British Asia has been difficult to sell.

3—The most notable increase in sales has been in foreign material, especially in Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Scandinavia, Russia, Holland and many others, but No Spain, Portugal, Turkey. The stock of all foreign material is practically down to zero, so during the year if supplies are not coming in, don't expect miracles.

I could go on like this for another ten pages, but no doubt our Editor would refuse to make it a special issue for the Sales Department, although he should once a year, and in this we could cover the doings of everybody.

Before ending this article, my thanks for the cooperation received during the past season from Chapter representatives and individual collectors; practically all of them did their best to lighten my burden, which is heavy at times. As in every rule there are some exceptions, some taking unfair advantage of your Sales Director by delaying the return of the books beyond any reasonable time. For the coming season, regulations will be strictly enforced, we have to, owners of books are entitled to some consideration by having their books circulating as often as possible, and my advice is to get the books back as fast as you can.

Wishing you all a good 1963-64 philatelic season.

H. GAUTHIER.

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1-17	1-17	37.00
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18 U BCA	18	20.75
19		7.75
51 U		7.00
53c	57c	56.75
66 U	68	23.00
98	23	10.40
98 U	23	8.80
100-13	25-37	13.40
141a	65a	7.25
143 m/u	67	8.40
144 57	68-81	8.80
" U	"-U	9.20
PAKISTAN		
1-17 U	1-17	3.50
19	19	7.00
23a		5.35
42a		9.20
43a	43	9.45
0.28a U		25.40
PAPUA		
112-19		6.60
163-8 U		5.57
RHODESIA		
10 U	16	7.75
13 U	19	21.50
16 U		9.20
17	23	9.45
19-26		8.80
29-37 U		3.85
52	41	26.00
84b		13.85
Corner block as above		55.50
96 corner block		6.60
97 corner block		6.60
113 U	99	6.60
113b U		21.50
142 U	107a	9.20
160a U		6.00
165 U	118	18.50

S.G.	SCOTT	$
165 U	118	21.50
166a U		24.50
179 U		61.00
180 U		14.25
246		12.25
246 U		7.75
272b block		13.85
274a		11.15
286		9.20
308		6.00
309	137	9.20
310	137	10.00
311a	138a	22.25
318		6.00
320		8.40
ST. HELENA		
56a		6.00
71	60	37.00
71 U	60	41.50
72-81	61-70	12.65
81	70	6.00
81 U	70	7.25
92—96	95-99	23.00
" U	"	30.50
96 U	99	21.50
99b		12.25
99b U		17.75
112	93	8.75
113	94	59.00
114-23	101-10	39.25
" U	"	43.00
114-22 U	101-9	20.75
122 U	109	11.15
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57		7.25
59	63	13.85
68a-77b	(12)	11.50
77 U		7.00
77c	92	7.00
77c U	92	8.00
94-105	107-18	7.25
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28	22	6.50
58-62	43-48	5.35
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79-91, 94	64-74	10.00

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CANADA

Here is a partial list of philatelic Canadiana that we can use for cash (U.S.A. or Canadian funds as desired). Clip this advertisement and save for future reference. We would especially like to hear from dealers, collectors, trustees of estates, anyone at all who may secure any Canadian stamps in value of at least $10.00 per lot to any size available. In the case of larger bulky lots please advise what is for sale. Non-bulky lots may be sent by registered mail AT ANYTIME WITHOUT WRITING FIRST, either priced or for our offers. We have been in business for 42 years and are life members of the A.P.S., R.P.S. of Canada, members of S.P.A., Collectors Club, B.N.A.P.S., C.S.D.A., etc.

WANTED TO BUY

1. Canadian imperforates and part perforates, all years and issues listed and unlisted in any quantity.
2. Errors of all types, major and minor. For example we purchased and sold over 100 of the famous Seaway Invert. ALWAYS INTERESTED IN ANY DISCOVERIES which will handle either by outright purchase or on commission basis, whichever is desired.
3. Canadian plate blocks, collections and accumulations. Urgently needed all Elizabethan G. overprinted plate blocks from 1953 to date and all values 1c to $1.00.
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5. 19th Century covers FROM Canada addressed to any part of the world. 19th Century covers from any part of the world addressed TO Canada.
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WINNIPEG **CANADA**

THE "ESCUDOS" ISSUE

VENEZUELA — 1951-1954

By L. M. LAMOUROUX, RPSC 5491

Some years ago, I wrote a short item for **The Canadian Philatelist** on the "Escudos" or "Arms" issue of Venezula. Much to my surprise, this short item was productive of quite a bit of correspondence and much fruitful trading, and it occurred to me recently that some of our readers, even though only academically interested in this proliferous issue, would like to know how it rests to-day.

It will be recalled that in 1950, the Venezuela Post Office announced that they were preparing a series of stamps showing the arms (or armorial bearings, as some would have it) of each of the 22 provinces or states of Venezuela, plus those of the Federal District of Caracas, plus those of the Republic itself. The series was to be composed of 7 stamps for ordinary postage and 9 stamps for airmail postage, 384 stamps in all, with a total face value of $92 or so.

This gave rise to many protests from collectors and dealers and a more or less serious boycott was started. At the time, Venezuela was in a fortunate financial position, as there was no external debt to speak of and very little internal debt, and the Post Office authorities, when protests were made about this extraordinary issue, are stated to have replied that "if it pleases us to issue 384 stamps, that is our business and no one else's" with more than a hint that what collectors and dealers thought was no concern of theirs.

The stamps duly appeared, but contrary to expectation, they were not issued all at once, fortunately, but spread over a period of about four years. The collecting of this issue thus became much more manageable.

However, due to the more or less serious boycott by the trade, many of the stamps of the first three or four provinces to be issued have become quite scarce and rather hard to find to-day, mint or used. We have heard that most of the values of these first ones were sent to outlying places and not on sale at the main offices in Caracas. Undoubtedly, the result is that a large number of these have been lost for ever to collectors.

Moreover, many of the denominations were printed in such small quantities that they were getting harder and har-

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der to find, mint or used. This is particularly the case for odd values, such as the 35c, 40c, 45c, 3 bs. and 5 bs. in the ordinary postage the 90c and bolivar values in the airmails. One, to my mind, remarkable "unearned increment" is that of the 50c. Tachira, ordinary postage, which is quoted to-day at $50 mint and $12.50 used — and none around to speak of. This was one of the values placed on sale at the beginning in outlying districts and there is no doubt in my mind that most of these went into the waste paper basket.

There have been practically no varieties discovered other than the type which would normally be found in any issue of stamps, such as those caused by the presence of some extraneous matter on the cylinder, with the sole exception of the short "1", which appears on the 82nd stamp of the sheet of ALL the 10 céntimos airmails. The figure "1" of the value on this stamp is distinctly shorter than that of all the other stamps of the sheet, about 1mm. No reason for this has ever been divulged or discovered. As the stamps were printed in photogravure by Courvoisier ,whose printing is always of a very high order, this short "1" must have been deliberate, but why we have never been able to discover, although I freely admit that I have been sorely tempted to write to Courvoisier or even the Venezuela P.O. authorities to see if one or the other would give me an answer.

At the time of the appearance of these

Block showing the Short "1"

stamps, the firm from which I then earned my daily sustenance had a flourishing branch in Caracas, and it was not long before these Escudos started coming into Head Office, in a trickle at first, and then in a real flood. I was not greatly interested in Venezuela at the time and was merely collecting the country's stamps because we received, and the Company Stamp Club duly collected ,and dished them out to members.

However, one day, I thought it would be good fun to try and get a used col-

lection of the issues and duly set about it seriously. It took me quite a while,

as the issue of the various provinces was spread out over four years and they were in use for a year or two after that. However, I finally made it, with the exception of the 10 bs. Trujillo, which proved to be very elusive. I had practically resigned myself to purchasing a copy, when a colleague at the office, go-

ing to Caracas on business and a collector himself, asked me if he could do anything for me there and was duly commissioned to purchase for me a complete set of all the stamps at the main Post Office. The Company Branch there had put in a meter in the meantime and I wanted to keep up with the country.

My astonishment was great when on my friend's return, I found not one, but two copies of the 10 bs. Trujillo, purchased at the P.O. counter! Nevertheless, as this is the only stamp of the 384 I have mint, I would willingly trade it for a used copy! Incidentally, an S.O.S. immediately sent to the Caracas branch to obtain some more for other members of the Company Stamp Club produced no results. These two copies must have been a return from some small Post Office in the interior where there would be little or no call for such a high value (over $3 Can.).

As regards the short "1", I managed to obtain fourteen of the twenty-four, 8 of them in imprint blocks of four, 4 in pairs and 2 in singles. I had never seen them advertised in any of the philatelic journals I peruse until, in March, I found them offered in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly. I immediately wrote for my miss-

ing copies, but to my regret, Messrs. Gibbons' replied that they were sold out and could only send me two (blocks of four). They also stated that the response to their note in GSM literally amazed them and they were all gone within a few hours of the magazine appearing.

I might mention that while no printing varieties of consequence have been discovered, there is one rather interesting error, in the stamps of the state of Bolivar, where the word "Diciembre" has been spelt "Diciember"—but the Venezuela P.O. did not issue a correcting stamp.

As far as I have been able to discover, there has been no "funny business" in connection with this issue. Rumours have flown around that attempts were being made to corner certain of the rather small printings, but these have proved to be false. It was fortunate for me that Venezuela collectors are not very numerous! There was a bit of a flurry when it became evident that the 7½¢ Air Yaracuy was in short supply, but it turned out that a broken water pipe had caused a flood in the P.O. stores

and the stock of this stamp happened to be on a lower shelf, where it was damaged by water, with the result that only about 22,000, out of 50,000, were salvaged and placed on sale. This explains its somewhat high value to-day.

Among the excellent correspondents my first article in 1953 procured me was a collector in Lynchburg, Virginia, who lived a long time in Caracas and was a specialist in Venezuela. This collector collected the issue in blocks of four and had managed to obtain a complete set just before his death, as also a complete set, bar one, of the short "1" in blocks of four. I did some wonderful trading with this gentleman and he persuaded me to go in for Venezuela to a much greater degree, something I have never regretted, as it is a most interesting and fascinating country and provides a lot of fun and interest.

I give below a check list of the Escudos issue. It will be noticed that there are three series of denominations, each one of eight provinces.

Aragua, Carabobo, Cojédes, Lara, Miranda, Yaracuy, Carácas (F.D.) and Venezuela (Republic):—

Ordinary: 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c.
Airmails: 5c, 7½c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 30c, 40c, 60c, 90c.

Amazonas, Anzoateguí, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Guárico, Monágas, Nueva Esparta, Sucre:—

Ordinary: 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 40c, 45c, 3 bs.
Airmails: 5c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 30c, 50c, 60c, 1 b., 3 bs.

Apure, Barinas, Falcón, Mérida, Portuguesa, Táchira, Trujillo, Zulia:—

Ordinary: 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 50c, 1 b., 5 bs.
Airmails: 5c, 10c, 15c, 30c, 60c, 1 b. 20, 3 bs., 5 bs., 10 bs.

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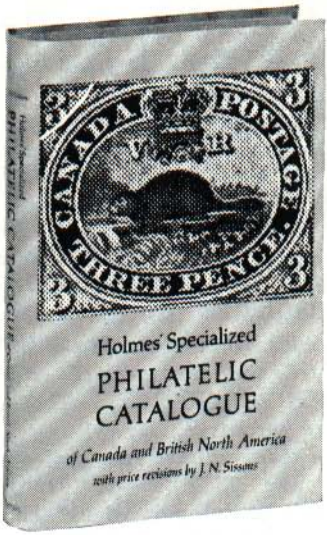

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The HOLLOW TREE

By ED. RICHARDSON (R.P.S.C. 6991)
303 PIN OAK DR., LA MARQUE, TEXAS, U.S.A.

#655—"2 / CENTS" 1926 OVERPRINTED — ADDITIONAL FORGERIES

In packet #624 in the Jan.-Feb. issue, we noted the existence of a forged DOUBLE SURCHARGE. This is the two line surcharge.

Since then we have seen copies of the single and TRIPLE SURCHARGES, also apparently produced by the same forger. The SINGLE surcharge, like the DOUBLE, is on a used stamp. However the TRIPLE is mint.

A careful comparison with known genuine surcharged stamps will readily show up many differences. However they are good enough to fool both the beginner and the misty-eyed bargain hunter!

* * *

#656—SOME NOTES ON ELECTION ENVELOPES — QUEEN ELIZABETH ISSUES

We do not know whether all varieties of these Election Envelopes are so available, but we know of several which we have seen or have in our collection, surcharged lightly in large double-lined letters—"SPECIMEN".

Those two envelopes listed by Holmes' as #1138a, and 1138b, should be noted as being printed on **kraft.**

The most recent envelope of which we have record is the 5¢ Blue Elizabeth on Kraft, with legend "FORM 154 - 12 - 60 - 20M". There should be a French version of this. Can anyone report other envelopes of Dec. 1960 or later?

* * *

#657—NEWFOUNDLAND REVENUE PROOFS

What happened to all the proofs of those interesting Newfoundland Revenues? Holmes lists only a couple of Essays.

Recently we had reported to us a copy of Holmes' NIR 3 on card, in light orange-brown. This is the 25¢ Victoria Head, Inland Revenue,—a very beautiful stamp. As far as we know, this is the first Newfoundland Revenue Proof to be so recorded, and we wonder who has any others in their collections?

* * *

#658—POPULAR SIDELINES

Not all sidelines are popular, and in some the supply available far exceeds demand. In others, like Squared Circle Cancels, while the supply is excellent, the demand is steady.

In many sidelines, however, there is a strong demand and very little visible supply. About the only material in existence is in the hands of collectors and changes hands only upon the break-up of collections. Some of those which appear to fall into this later category

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Illustrated Advertising Covers
Canadian "Locals"

Note how many of these groups are specialty sub-groups of postal stationery,—nearly one half!

* * *

#659—CANADIAN VOYAGEURS' CONTINGENT IN THE GORDON RELIEF, NILE EXPEDITION

The **London Philatelist**, the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London,—carried in its October and November 1962 issues, an interesting article in two parts on this interesting aspect of the Nile Expedition,—1884-85. The well written and illustrated article by J. H. E. Gilbert covers a little known part of Canadian postal history.

While there are probably others not so recorded, Gilbert does list **four** known covers being addressed to Canada from members of the expedition. He also lists some **eight** covers from Canada, addressed in this case to Surgeon-Major Neilson, a member of the expedition. Two of this later group are in this collector's collection.

Canadian fans interested in cover material related to various Canadian Expeditionary forces, will find this article of great value and interest.

* * *

#660—WHITTELEY'S EXPRESS

This little known bogus Canadian local was probably a fabrication of S. Allan Taylor. It is interesting to note the simularity between the portrait in this Whitteley's Express stamp, and the one in Taylor's re-issue of the Bancroft's City Express stamps.

According to Springer's handbook on these bogus locals, there are at least 13 varieties, all printed in composite form along with other Canadian and US "locals". All are of the 2¢ denomination, and are in blue, green, black and various shades of browns and reds, and on numerous varieties of papers, as were most of Taylor's phantoms.

These are not common. In spite of our being on the lookout for these for a score of years, we still can report only three varieties! We suspect that most of them will be found in U.S. collections.

* * *

#661—WAR TAX 2¢ / 1¢ BROWN, DIE I

This stamp has long been recognized as a scarce one. It normally retails around $20-$25 in fine mint condition.

Only two plates were used for printing this stamp, — plates A1 and A2. These are found in both upper and lower positions.

We have long favored the War Tax Stamps of Canada, and have tried to put together a representative collection of this material. Imagine our pleasure then, in finally being able to add to our collection examples of both plate numbers in mint strips.

In the carmine stamp, die II is the scarce one, and here again only two plates were used,—A15 and A16. Here we are not quite so lucky, we have only A15.

But even the more common types and numbers are getting difficult to find. The War Tax stamps are really one of the great challenges to 20th Century Canadian collectors.

* * *

#662—PROOFS "ON CARD"

We find many specialized catalogues listing proofs and designating either "on card" or "on india paper".

There are definitely some BNA proofs which were made directly on card. However there are many more which were

made "on india, on card"—that is, the proof itself is directly on india paper, which has been "mounted on card".

Therefore, to be perfectly clear, collectors should learn to designate whether, 1) "on india", or 2) "on card" or 3) "on india, munted on card". The first two are easy enough to tell, and #3 can be told from #2 by careful examination. Actually many "on india" proofs are those which have been separated from their card backing. In most cases there was no gum or mucilage used, only the pressure and the embossing of the stamp design binding the thin india paper to the soft card.

* * *

#663—LONDON - LONDON AIRMAIL

This rarest of all Canadian Pioneer and Semi-Official airmail stamps has been extensively "reprinted". Actually they are not even reprints in the correct sense, but are outright fakes.

Since the location of all copies of this rarity is well known to specialists, the only copies that anyone is apt to come across, are fakes. However, hope springs eternal and it might be well to point out some simple tests for distinguishing the original from the fake.

Original:—Outer frame line is thinner than the inside frame line. Lower, outside frame line is not broken.

Fake:—Both frame lines of approx. same thickness, Breaks in the lower outside frame line. Also a break in the upper outside frame line.

#364—OFFICIAL VIEW CARDS

These are the view cards, printed in sepia, on the 2¢ Brown, "Arch" or "Maple Leaves" issue of 1930-31,—Holmes' #1454b (English), and #1454c (Bilingual).

These are becoming increasingly popular with Canadian collectors, and supplies seem to be drying up. Holmes, not giving any special catalogue value to the rarer designs, catalogues the entire set of 70 at $15.35. Most sets that come on to the market today are not complete, while the occasional complete one will bring approx. $25,—nearly double catalogue.

A real sleeper!

Coming Events

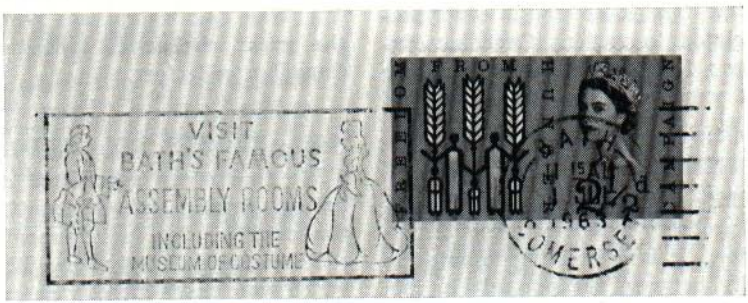
SEPTEMBER 28— BRANTFORD Stamp Club 25th Anniversary Exhibition (by Galt S. C.) Bourse and Banquet — Polish Hall, Brantford — Visitors Welcome. See announcement on another page.

OCTOBER 19—QUINTE STAMP CLUB Sixth Annual Interclub Exhibition, at Kiwanis Centre, Belleville, from 1 p.m.

OCTOBER 28—EAST TORONTO Stamp Club Exhibition, at Church of the Resurrection, Woodbine & Milverton. Noon to 10 p.m.

NOVEMBER 1 - 2 — ROYAL P. S. C. FIRST WESTERN ONTARIO Regional Exhibition and Bourse — See announcement on another page.

NOVEMBER 8-9 — HAMILTON Philatelic Society — Hamilton-Buffalo Philatelic Societies' Reunion Exhibition, Jockey Club Hotel, Hamilton. All Visitors Welcome.



The NEW G.B. CANCEL WITH SLOGAN ON LEFT AND DATE AT RIGHT

Another Shock From St. Martin's-le-Grand

Really, we are wondering what is happening to the British Post Office these days.

In our last issue, we showed some new stamps in honour of the International Lifeboat Conference which have appeared in somewhat startling colours. In this issue, we reproduce a specimen of the new slogan type cancel with the slogan away from the stamp. Since then we have heard of tête-bêche 3d stamps appearing here and there and a new "Seaside" booklet with tête-bêche panes, and now we hear of some new aerogrammes which go on sale on the 1 August at all post offices in the London area, with a view of London thereon! There will be a choice of two views, one of the Houses of Parliament seen from across the Thames and the other of the Tower of London, with the Tower Bridge in the background. Both in four colours.

The staid old lady of St. Martin's-le-Grand is really going places these days and we are now wondering what other surprises they have in store for us. This is getting quite fascinating.

Why, who knows, we may even see them scrapping all the cancellors in the country and dishing out some new ones which will not "kill" the stamps, especially the higher values, as has been so persistently done in the past. Here's hoping! But good luck to 'em just the same in their rejuvenation!

STAMP & COIN SHOW IN WINNIPEG

The Third Annual Greater Winnipeg Coin & Stamp show will be held at the Sheraton-Carlton Motor Hotel in downtown Winnipeg, October 18 and 19.

Free brochures outlining the Greater Winnipeg Coin & Stamp Show can be obtained from Somer James, of the Regency Coin & Stamp Company, Ltd., 157 Rupert Avenue East, Winnipeg, Man.

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Obituary

AUBREY KELSON

We have to mourn the passing of Aubrey Kelson, a long time member of the Society and well-known stamp dealer. He conducted the STAMP HAVEN in Toronto for many years and then moved to Deseronto and a little later to Saint John, N.B., where he continued to operate his stamp business, but did not enjoy the best of health. Nevertheless, he was able to operate with the devoted help of his good wife Mary.

He was at one time a very active member of the East Toronto Stamp Club, and under his guidance as President, the Club forged ahead rapidly. For his fine work for the Club, he was made an Honorary Life Member.

We offer to Mrs. Kelson our sincere and deep sympathy in her great loss. Aubrey will be missed by many of his numerous friends and clients.

—Bert Nicolle

THE LONDON LETTER

By ROBSON LOWE (R.P.S.C. 7400)

To-day, 4th August, I left Cadnam at 6.20 *a.m. and arrived at London Airport* 8 *a.m.—having driven through steady English rain (about* 4 *hours to the inch) that keeps the countryside those infinite and lovely shades of green that are the distinction of our land. The plane from New York on which I am booked is going to be two hours late, so I have put my name down on the stand-by list for the* 10.40, *having phoned Rome to explain the delay and settled down to write this letter.*

* * *

On 26th June, I arrived in Dublin, half an hour ahead of President Kennedy, to be greeted by bands, strange drinks and the sight of President De Valera and his glamorous police escort. Our job was to take delivery of the stock of stamps that remain as the chief asset of Shanahan Stamp Auctions. Over a hundred days have been spent by the Irish courts on the various civil and criminal cases that arose out of this liquidation and at last the Liquidator has been authorised to employ us to sell the stock.

No one person has seen all of it. When the first valuation was made in the summer of 1959, John Forrest and Loi Pemberton joined me in the work. Now I hoped to have an opportunity of seeing the part of the stamps that have not been through my hands before.

The bulk of the stock was enormous, fifteen four-drawer filing cabinets, four trunks and the wholesale stock which is housed in three enormous cupboards which alone contained over three million stamps (Harry Martin, Jr., should enjoy these as well!). Each auction lot has a number on the Liquidator's schedule, some 8,000 in all. Each had to be checked, reduced in size (single stamp was often in a small stock card contained in an envelope which was itself in a large folder, in order to achieve the maximum security in transport and the minimum safe room once the stock was transferred to England. As each page of the schedule was completely checked, it was signed by our team and handed over to the Liquidator's staff. Then each lot had to be graded geographically and packed. Over a period of two weeks, it took six of us over 800 hours to complete the work.

* * *

It is 10.20 *and my flight is called; Annabelle and the boys have taken Jim home for lunch, so the next paragraphs will be written on board—so they are, but there is a delay and we have not taken off.*

* * *

The most interesting job in Dublin was a suitcase of stamps which were recovered by the police from a bank in Toulouse. After a stamp dealer had been arrested in Zürich and convicted of selling stamps stolen when Shanahan's were burgled in May 1959, the prisoner secured a reduction of his sentence by surrendering a cache of stolen stamps, These had only recently arrived in Dublin and no one knew whether they were of any value.

Two years ago, we published a catalogue of stolen stamps and in consequence some thousands of pounds' worth have been identified and recovered and many more still turn up.

The contents of the case were in a glorius muddle and first we put everything in order of country. Then taking the "Stolen Stamps Catalogue" as a crib, we started to identify lots. There were some fine combination covers from the German States and rarities from the Argentine, Finland and Italian States, When finished, over 250 lots, some containing over 500 stamps and worth considerably more than £5,000, had been identified.

I must stop now for we are running along the tarmac at the Leonardo de Vinci Airport at Rome.

68 *minutes later and I am aboard a plane from Bahrein and Bagdad and sweltering in a temperature of well over* 100°. *The loot is on board but there was no time for me to look at it.*

* * *

Back to the Shanahan story. All the stock is now in England; the parts on which we are working are now in the vaults of our London and Bournemouth offices and the rest are in safe deposits at our banks. The first sales will be held in October, the first exciting section being sold in mid-October: Austria, Lombardy - Venetia, German States, Italian States and Norway being the best. On the 29th October, we shall sell the BURRUS G.B., which contains large exhibition pieces, one of the most spectacular being the complete sheet of the 1882 £5 orange.

* * *

In one of my recent London Letters, I mentioned the temptation of visiting the international exhibition in Melbourne. Well, I have fallen, and having sold the BURRUS Mauritius on the 1st October, my next stop will be for dinner with Jal Cooper in Bombay on the 4th, then Melbourne, Sydney, San Francisco, Chicago, Toronto (where I am to sing for my supper on the 25th), Boston and back home for more Burrusery.

* * *

Back at London Airport, the faithful Jim is waiting with the car to whisk us the seventy-five miles back home. Curiosity is too much for me so I sit in the back and drool over the primitives of British Guiana. First comes the pair of 2¢ Cotton Reels on cover addressed to *"Edward Gordon, Plantn Good Hope"* which passed through the hands of Luord, Stanley Gibbons (twice), Willadt, Kosack, Baron Otto von Transche-Roseneck, Kohe and Ferrari before it was bought by Burrus in 1921 for £5,245. In the following year, Burrus bought the Bermuda Perot on cover for £556 and this we have just sold under the hammer for £11,000. What is the British Guiana worth to-day?

* * *

Bless my soul, we are nearly home and I have done little this wet summer Sunday but travel 2150 *miles, miss my breakfast, look at some stamps in the back of the car and write you this letter*!

* * *

Lock up your stamps next October —there are going to be strangers in town!

MELBOURNE SOUVENIR COVERS

In connection with MIPEX, the Melbourne International Exhibition, the Exhibition Executive is providing special Souvenir Covers — four different envelopes — at a cost of 5¢ each envelope and will undertake all servicing for interested collectors. Requests for servicing or envelopes should be addressed to Fred E. Wood,11 Wahroongaa Crescent, Murrumbeena, S.E. 9, Victoria, Australia, not later than Sept. 28th for opening day cancel, with full remittance.

It is expected that at least two new stamps will be released by the P.O. on the Exhibition opening day.

Full servicing will cost 10d. **plus** the appropriate Australian Postal Rate, ordinary mail 5d. and airmail 2/-, to Canada.

The Post Office will use two distinct cancellations, the "Barred Oval" and the "Barred Normal" patterns of Victoria, with three ink colours, green on the 7 Oct., black from 8 to 11 Oct. inclusive and purple on 12 Oct.

M.O.'s, cheques, to be made payable to "MIPEX" (1963).

Stamp Collecting as an Investment

By CHARLES JEWELL

SINCE this is a difficult and delicate topic, it will be well to be as clear as possible. First, as regards investment, it is possible to invest in Stock Exchange Shares—but here two objects at least are envisaged, one being interest rate. So the main object of our "investment" must be capital appreciation. It is also possible to "invest" in, say, shares in a gold-mining concern with the purpose of safeguarding oneself against inflation and the fall in value of a national currency. This third point is material to us—very much so. Now we come to stamp collecting.

I chose this term for the simple reason that everyone, of every age, has a rough idea of what it means. But their idea is indeed very rough, and in most cases useless for my purpose. Many people think that because they have found grandfather's old album tucked away under a mass of cobwebs in the attic they are on to a good thing; even a sort of gold mine. Like so many collectors, notably youngsters, but plenty of grown-ups too, people think that if they buy a stamp whose face value in any foreign currency is equal to, say 3d., they own a secure 3d. asset. I have often wished that someone would broadcast to this vast world of optimists that all they have is a **promise to carry a letter.** Stamps, though they do **look** like, are NOT currency. Now we know what is not of value, let me put the question: what is?

It has been urged in the past that a piece of discoloured and dirty paper cannot have any value, and that the whole hobby is futile. But not so long ago a collection of truly fine pieces was sold in New York for £1,000,000 gross. The fact is that the hobby has, and always has had, a strongly commercial basis. I have shown a comparison with the Stock Exchange, and the Stock Exchange has its List—and indeed its OFFICIAL LIST, while there are also **unquoted** shares in existence **outside** the list.

"Philately" can be used as the science of stamp collecting, and it is precisely this which has raised the hobby out of the general level. Since the very early days, the market value of a stamp has been governed by catalogue lists—like the Stock Exchange List. So, since long before 1900, a collector "A" in, say, Italy, could exchange stamps with another, "B", living in Mexico, on the basis of any of the great catalogues of stamps of the world. Moreover, by and large, these catalogue prices were in agreement with each other. Exchange, however, differs from buying and selling.

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It is obvious, once the point is made, that for a dealer to make a profit out of handling a stamp priced at 5s., he must make a much larger working commission than one handling a stamp priced at £5. Accordingly, throughout the world, it was customary to assess the **selling value** of cheaper stamps at less than catalogue prices—**much** less!! But the bigger the catalogue price the nearer the market value would approach to parity. So far we have been generalising, the net result being that practically any worthwhile stamp listed has its own fixed world-standard value.

In practice, this needs qualification. Let us take the classic stamp of all time, our British Penny Black. Say we are shown a used copy. Collectors of porcelain know only too well that if a figure is chipped, or has been repaired, it has lost most of its value. Perhaps the stamp has three wide margins, but on the fourth side the scissors cut into the design. The value is now reduced perhaps to one-fifth of standard—a nasty blow! But we call in an expert, and he identifies the stamp as from the rarest of 11 plates used for printing these Penny Blacks—and the theoretical value goes up twentyfold. And we have not yet looked at the cancellation. If, indeed, this is light, and the head of Queen Victoria mostly clear, the value rises considerably; with a heavy stroke obscuring the head, down it goes. But the cancellation itself may be a famous rarity among cancellations. If so, the stamp may be worth 20 times standard on this account. That is to say, if the **cancellation** is valuable, the value of the stamp bearing it is a matter of comparative indifference. So several points emerge.

First: There is a theoretical market for any worthwhile stamp.

Second: It is liable to rocket upwards, or to collapse like a pricked balloon.

Third: The factors governing such fluctuation may be grouped as (a) condition, and (b) rarity of the item as a specimen, not merely a stamp. A pair, for instance, may be worth many times a single; a stamp on its own original letter, with both stamp and letter clean, clear and without defects, may prove a record-breaker if auctioned.

Fourth (and this is the point): **No ignorant non-philatelist** can begin to estimate the market value of any stamp.

A consideration that over-rides all these factors is that the expert valuer can only work in the present tense. What may upset all his experience, judgment and flair is fashion, or **la mode.** Clearly, heavy stuff comparable to gilt-edged securities are not so liable to be affected, but the workings of this factor are at times fantastic. And let me make it clear that there is, nearly always, a very sound reason. In general, it is related to the immense advances in philatelic research.

There are today a vast number of intellectually-gifted students who devote themselves to aspects of philately which

never occurred to their forbears, postal history being one such aspect.

In 1841 a vast new enterprise was set up; a fleet of six huge Royal Mail Steam Packets linked Britain with the West Indies and the Americas, and the postal network in foreign countries was being organised by the Consular Agencies. Between 1859 and the late 1870s British postage stamps were used at these Agencies to prepay letters to almost anywhere in the world, and were cancelled with a special serial number. In earlier days, a similar usage occurred in some of our Colonies. So the common Penny Red used at, say, Havana, opens the door to the founding of a maritime empire.

This is not to say that old-style specialisation, looking at the minutiae—rudely called "fly-specks" — of each stamp and by this means identifying permanent defects, being able to reconstruct the full sheet and thus proving the printing process used, has been pushed into the background. On the contrary, this aspect of the hobby still flourishes.

In short, in modern philately there is scarcely any human activity which cannot be brought in. The results are these:

A. The foundations of the hobby are solid as a rock, are widespread, and appeal to all sides of human nature.

B. The market value of the huge masses of material relating to the hobby is, in general, equally solidly based.

So the question now is: Can one, or should one, invest in this hobby? If so, how? The answers must be that without technical knowledge one cannot and should not: but with technical knowledge, a specialist stands a fairly good chance of making his hobby a lucrative investment. This knowledge is not very difficult to acquire. Time and concentration are required, but a vast literature of studies and journals, and a world-wide group of philatelic societies, make it fairly easy.

It may be well at this point to sound a warning. Let me take the case of a wealthy man who buys material from dealers and auctions **blindly**, with the **deliberate** object of speculating on a rise in values. I am not a lawyer, but I should say that if he makes a profit he should declare it for Income Tax assessment, since this form of activity is strictly business. I might add that since he will start by paying profit to the dealer or a commission to the auctioneer, he may have to wait some time before he runs into taxation trouble.

Knowledge, in short, is power: ignorance is closely linked to "Hubris" of the Greeks and will be punished.

A would-be specialist may well ask whether I can come down from the general to the particular. I certainly do not intend to start a new life as philatelic tipster, but I can fairly suggest a few rules for guidance.

First: Cut your coat according to your cloth; if your pocket is short, avoid big and well-known countries. Look rather for small and neglected fields; there are plenty.

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Second: Concentrate, limit your field, learn one thing well.

Third: Be humble. Do not think, because you are clever and experienced in one subject, that you start another with any advantage. This piece of advice is of high value.

Fourth: There are certain odd factors that influence the market. A war, change of government, the end of an era or the beginning of a new one, may bring popularity to an unpopular country or group.

Fifth (and the best rule of all): Make your own successes! You should find that successful research pays big dividends—partly in cash, but far more on the higher levels.

Philately is the most restful of all hobbies, and the most friendly, and it is, at all levels, the most satisfying. No matter how small the achievement, it is "something attempted, something done". (Courtesy Stamp Collecting)

A Good Tip

We glean the following useful tip from The Guide Line, of the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society.

"V. Eardley-Wilmot gave us some information regarding Canada and Britain "phosphor lined" stamps which are so treated on the faces of the stamps. With mints, under the Ultra-Violet light, these phosphor bands show up in the dark and when the light is removed they appear as bright pale blue fluorescent bands which fade away after 10 to 15 seconds. The used Canadian stamps, if they have been **soaked** off the cover, do not show any fluorescence, but the **backs** of the **wet** stamps show opaque bands due to some chemical action on the paper. The G. B. stamps, after soaking, show only feeble fluorescence which fades away after 2 seconds or less. The backs of the wet stamps do not show opaque bands, but the face of the dried stamps, held at a flat angle against ordinary light, show dull bands where the phosphor has removed the shiny surface of the normal stamps.

Brantford Celebrates its Silver Jubilee

This year the Brantford Stamp Club, Chapter #1 R.P.S.C. celebrates its 25th Anniversary. They are proud of this milestone and special celebrations have been planned for all members, friends and fellow stamp collectors.

On Saturday, September 28th, 1963, the Brantford Stamp Club will hold its 25th Anniversary Banquet and Bourse at the Polish Hall, 154 Pearl Street, Brantford. The Galt Stamp Club, in conjunction with the Banquet, are staging their Fall Stamp Show with competitive exhibition for awards and trophies. For details of the exhibition, contact Mr. G. Drew-Smith, 28 Wentworth St., Galt.

The proceedings will begin at 12:00 p.m. with the Bourse and Exhibition, and the afternoon's program includes an Auction, an interesting draw for many prizes, Banquet and awarding of exhibition trophies. A top-notch after-dinner speaker has been arranged.

Reservations for dinner, etc. to be made to James H. Moore, R.R. #6, Brantford, Ont.

APFELBAUM ALBUM AWARD

(As mentioned in our preceeding issue p. 188)

Robson Lowe Takes Over The Shanahan Stock

A contract has been signed between the liquidator of Shanahan Stamp Auctions Ltd., and Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, by which the latter are authorised to sell the stock of stamps. Under the contract, the normal conditions of stamp auctions will be slightly modified and the auctioneers have had to provide a bond for £850,000.

The stock falls into two categories, the first in which the investors who were members of the syndicates in the Shanahan sales have an interest, and the "free" stock which had not been allocated to investors. The first series of sales will be the "syndicated" stamps and all these will be sold in England including the Burrus collections of Great Britain, New South Wales, Queensland, Netherlands, Philippine Islands and a number of less valuable countries. Many of these auctions will be held prior to the end of the year. It is anticipated that two years may elapse before the entire stock is sold.

In addition to the Burrus stamps there are many other fine and rare pieces and a special freight plane was chartered to bring the large wholesale stock of modern pictorial stamps from Dublin to England.

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Romancing in Luxembourg

By HAROLD D. BEARCE

Let us forget for today that section of our Luxembourg album which highlights the serious philately of varieties, flaws, errors, special perforations, shades and what not, and delve into something somewhat more relaxing, and might we say, "more educational?" We have spent many, many hours in hunting for those flyspecks which our club journal has mentioned and now we are determined to "just look at the pretty pictures through a glass for awhile." Some of these pictures, we think, are real masterpieces in beauty, and if we but set the wheel of imagination turning in our minds we can provide ourselves with a few hours of some real romances.

First, we must take a look at that old time favorite, Scott No. 153. It matters not what the stamp was issued for, nor what scene it shows, for we are on a journey into wonderland. We are not exaggerating too much when we say that the beauty of this stamp of two shades of blue takes our breath away. If we were able to project ourselves into this scene where would we be? Well,

it matters not much, but it might be that we are in the Rocky mountains of Colorado, for we stand amid the towering pinnacles of rock, and looking out among the trees and undergrowth we can see a valley which nestles the small village below. In this valley we can see the small river winding its way into, or near, the village. We can see the steeples of a church, there below us, and we are so enthused over the beauty of this "wonderland" that we promise ourselves to show our thanks to the Creator by attending that very same village church this coming Sabbath. Looking through our glass, this stamp seems to have a three dimentional perspective. Far across the valley we can see other mountains, perhaps a day's journey from where we now are. We take a last look at the beautiful overhead and say to ourselves, "Well done, sir artist, whoever you might be."

Where to next? We flip the pages a bit and our romancing takes us to the portrait of a beautiful lady, which in Scott stamp No. 214. We shall not seek out her name, for it does not matter. This beautiful young lady reminds us of the sophisticated "Miss Americas" right around here in our own home town, and we begin recalling the few years back when we might have been able to escort such a fair young lady to the evening concert. We must not spend

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all the hours enjoying this beautiful portrait, but as we turn on we wonder if our country might not turn out a beautiful stamp like this one, just once.

Now let us go on to that beautiful green stamp, Scott No. 197. We are at first attracted to no more than a mass of small buildings built alongside the banks of a small river or canal. But it

does not take long for the seemingly serenity of this scene to invite further inspection. Who lives in those houses? What businesses are there? What bridge is that? How can one get up into that upper town, there on the bluff? How clear is the water? Yes, there has been romance there in the yesterdays, we find romance there, today, and, God spare the bombs, there will be romances there tomorrow.

But we are not through with beautiful stamps. Luxembourg abounds with them. Let's enjoy Scott No. 198 for a few minutes. What do we find here? The words on the stamp read, "Gates of the Three Towers". We have always liked towers and know that you will be with us when we suggest climbing the inside of one of these in order to look out over the countryside. The grounds look so well kept around this spot. We can see a rail lining the further side of yonder street and rail fences always remind us of orderliness. Back behind the village we can barely see what seems to be a river lined with hills and trees. We must tarry at this peaceful scene for awhile for it is so restful, and the world is so fretful.

War is not an easy death, but our Luxembourg has given us a wonderful

picture of the final resting place of those of our "next-of-kin" who did not come back. We spend a good deal of time, not romancing, but remembering, for on one of those crosses is his name, and under the sod is his earthly remains.

Prairie Conservation Stamps

Designed by the late Dr. Wm. C. Rowan, who also was the designer of Canada's "Whooping Crane" stamp of 1955.

There were only two issues, 1945 and 1946.

The 1945 issue consists of 5 diff. designs, each issued in sheets of 20, imperf. margins all around.

The 1946 issue consists of one value, issued in vertical strips of 5, imperf. all around.

1945 set of five, all straight edges ..$1.25
1945 set of five, blox of four, s.e. ..$4.75
1945 set of five, perf. all around $1.50
1945 set of five, blox of 4, perf. $6.00

1946 single, three straight edges ....$ .25
1946 single, two straight edges .....$ .30
1946 full sheet of five $1.35

Ed Richardson

303 Pin Oak Drive, LaMarque, Texas

Scott Nos. 242 and 245 brings these memories back to us, and although we cannot be happy over our memories we are so thankful for the gratitude which these stamps imply.

We have always wanted to explore a castle. Now is our chance, for we turn next to the stamp, Scott No. 126-127. Won't you join our adventure in this castle? There it hangs, high on the hill, it must be old for it seems to be partly in ruins. A million words could be written of the romances to be found here. We wonder at the many years it took in the building; we wonder at those early

toilers, some of whom must have died at their work. We wonder how many hidden passage-ways it covers, and we wonder how many thousands of soldiers it helped to withstand.

We marvel at the fine details some of these beautiful stamps show in their pictures, and as we turn to stamps Nos. 128 and 129 we are reminded of the painstaking ordeal the artist, the engraver, too, must have gone through in producing the details shown. Under the glass we can see the tiny, tiny railroad tracks which go into the founderies. We can see smoke, black smoke, billowing from the tall stacks. We even imagine seeing steam spurting from one of the factory buildings. Two beautiful stamps well done.

If you do not have Scott 151, then turn to No. 152, the picture is the same. An-

other stamp with fine details, and if you care to drop around to the house, we will let you help us count the leaves there on that bush just to the left of the secondpost. There are so many things to hunt for in this masterpiece. Can you find the bench from which the lady has just risen? Or can you find the knot-hole in the tree trunk? We wonder if the lady is not reminiscing of the days when yonder village was nothing but a "cow pasture". Or perhaps she is studying those threatening clouds. Should

(Continued on page 228)

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5. Ceylon 1857/9 6d. purple brown, superb on cover with 2d. yellow green and 1d. blue, S.G.5, 8, 11. Colombo-England $105
6. Ceylon 1861 Intern: 1s. + 1863/7, used on '66 cover to Austria ex. Kandy. ..... $ 90
7. Ceylon 1867 CC 2nd. type, 8d. carmine brown & CC 14, 1d. blue, S.G.108, 119, on envelope via Southampton to G.B. ..... $ 67
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13. Egypt 1866 10p. brown, S.G.2, rare strip of 4 on E. Alexandria-Cairo. ..... $ 90
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15. France 1848 40c. superb small Z687 canc. on E. Rives-Lyon with OR marking. ..... $ 83
16. German States Baden 1851 9kr X 5, (4 franked as a block) & 1853 6kr. on E To USA $105
17. German States Bavaria 1866 Env. to Milan brg. 6kr. blue & 18kr. verm, Mi. 10a. .... $ 75
18. German States Hannover 1850 1ggr. black/grey blue, v.f. & fresh pair with str. line "Twistringen" cancel on clean / to Hildesheim. ..... $ 75
19. German States Saxony 1851 1ngr, Mi. 4, v.f. on small embossed entire. T.P.O. on reverse. ..... $ 60
20. German States Saxony 1863/7 ½ngr. v.f. on ornamental env. Mi. 15, rare violet canc. ..... $ 90
21. Gold Coast, 1876-9 4d. magenta pair, S.G. 7 on cover to France brg. black "Paid at Cape Coast Castle" c.d.s. $108
22. Gold Coast, 1879 2d. green, S.G. 6a, diagonal bisect on June '84 cover, Winnebah-Accra. $135
23. Italian States, Modena 1852 40c. pale blue, superb on E.L. Reggio-Trieste. $210
24. Japan 1872 Native Laid 2s. orange vermilion & pair ½s. grey brown, pl. 2 on neat cover. S.G.28, 20. ..... $135
25. Labuan 1891 6c/8c (3) on reg. cover to U.S.A. ..... $ 58
26. Labuan 1891 6c/8c + 1892 2c (3) on '92 reg. cover to Singapore, S.G. 27, 34. .... $ 48
27. Luxemburg 1852 10c. grey black, large pair, bars cancel on E. brg. Luxemburg Par Arlon. cds ..... $ 75
28. Mexico 1861 EL brg. 4r. grey black/yellow, diagonal bisect, S.G. 11c, ex. Guadamayo. ..... $ 60
29. Mexico 1861 EL ex. Solima brg. R. vert. bisect 4r. grey, black/yellow, S.G.11c. ..... $ 60
30. Netherlands 1852 10c. Pl. V, superb horiz. strip of 3, maximum margs, Amsterdam dated canc. on E. To Bordeaux. $120
31. Netherlands, 1852 E. Brg. 1c & 15c (2) all v.f.—green Franco cancels. ..... $ 53

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CHAPTER NEWS

• **TORONTO**

Tony Ruta, of the East Toronto Stamp Club, won a Gold award for his exhibit of a complete set of officials of Cochin, and N. L. Benton an honourable mention for his showing of Penny Blacks, at the Golden Anniversary Exhibition of the Rochester Philatelic Association. Congratulations to both.

• **MONTREAL**

L'Union Philatélique de Montréal informs us that Louis-G. Vaillancourt, has been elected President of the Club for 1963-64 and Mme Aline Côté, 11875 St-Germain, Montréal 9, Secretary. Our best wishes to these new officers.

• **BRANTFORD**

Glad to hear that John Barchino and Jim Moore, R. R. #6, Brantford, have been re-elected President and Secretary respectively of the Brantford Stamp Club. Jim Moore is not only Secretary, but also Editor of the THE PHILY, the Club's journal, one of the brightest of club journals in all Canada.

Don't miss the special item on Brantford's Silver Jubilee celebrations on another page.

• **HALIFAX**

Charlie Morshead, secretary of the Nova Scotia S. C. has taken to writing a stamp column for the Halifax Mail-Star — and sending us a tear sheet thereof each week. Many thanks, Charlie. This is a very good column indeed and must be top notch publicity for the Nova Scotia S. C. Keep up the good work, Charlie — Don't forget we've got our editorial eye on you!

• **LENNOXVILLE, P. Q.**

The Second annual picnic of stamp collectors from the Eastern Townships took place on July 6th at Dixville, Que., sponsored by the St. Francis Collectors' Club of Lennoxville, whose invited guests were the Eastern Townships of Sherbrooke, and the Knowlton Area. Over

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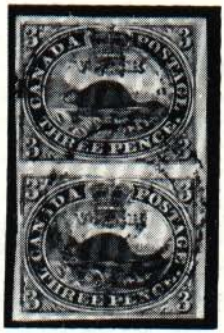

CANADA

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7b	1852/57	3d scarlet-vermilion on thin wove. **The major re-entry.** Fine used	$174
8		**6d Slate-violet on thin wove, with almost central blue target cancel. Superb**	$300
10		**A very fine used vertical pair** of the 3d. red on medium hard wove. **An attractive item (Illustrated)**	$165
17		6d purple on very thick soft wove, used, **with Imprint. Rare thus**	$450
19	1857	3d red on thin brittle wove. **With Imprint.** Fine used	$165
20	1855	10d bright blue on thin wove. A **superb** example, lightly postmarked and with large margins	$330
23	1857	½d deep rose on stout hard wove. **Light cancel.** B.P.A. certificate	$81
57c	1868	2c bluish green, perf 12, showing **"CL" of paper-maker's watermark.** Used	$84
61a		12½c bright blue, showing **"H" of paper-maker's watermark.** Used	$75
105	1888/97	3c rose-carmine, Ottawa printing, **O.G. Superb.** R.P.S. certificate	$78
116(3) &	191 1893	50c blue (3) used with 1908 5c. on tag from Canadian Bank of Commerce, White Horse, Yukon. An interesting item	$36
259a	1922/31	3c carmine, Imperf x perf 8. **A superb mint vertical pair on thick soft paper**	$36
265a	1926	2 cents on 3c carmine, **surcharge double** O.G.	$48
281 (var.)	1928/29	10c green, mint horizontal pair, **imperforate between vertically**	$30
345a	1935	5c blue, Mint marginal block of four, **Imperforate between vertically**	$120
026	1950/52	Official, "G" on $1 purple, **Superb mint block of 4**	$84
O 28a	1950/51	Official, "G" on 10c brown-purple, **overprint omitted**—one stamp of mint block of 6	$150

ALL OFFERED SUBJECT UNSOLD

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80 collectors and friends were present. Our hard working cooks produced a sumptious feast of Hamburgs, Hot Dogs, Coffee, Lemonade, finishing off with strawberry short cake. The Door Prize was won by Mr. Mayhew, and once again Mrs. Mayhew won first prize on the draw. Our thanks must go out to Ivor Whitehouse and family who once again offered the use of his grounds and house.

• **HAMILTON**

Tony Sarson, Secretary of the Hamilton P. S., reports that the Club has doubled its membership during the past season, with a total now of 82 members. The average attendance this past season was 40 members and 3 visitors. Pretty good going, Hamilton — Keep it up!

The "Old Timers' Night" was the hit of the year. They have some pretty good collectors in and around Hamilton, which used to be very influential in the C. P. S. many years ago. Let's hope those days are coming back!

Tony also asks us to remind all members of the Royal that the Annual Hamilton-Buffalo Reunion will be held at the Jockey Club Hotel in Hamilton on November 8th and 9th. All collectors and philatelists well be welcome and assured of a real philatelic fest.

• **EDMONTON**

Willard Rorke, of the Edmonton S. C. ran away with the Grand Award at the exhibition in Tacoma of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. This is the first time the Club has participated in this Annual Exhibition. Willard also received a silver rose bowl for his effort, as well as a bronze medal for another exhibit of Small Queens. We do not have particulars of his Grand Award exhibit, but knowing Willard, we can guess it was something in Canada, and 20th century at that, the first time a 20th century rather than a 19th century one exhibit has won the Grand Award

(Continued on page 234)

From Parliament Hill

by HANS REICHE (R.P.S.C. 6397)

There can be no doubt that the summer season is here and stamps almost forgotten. But during these hot days (it's only 98 today!) you may wonder what happens to your stamps. Recently a chap mailed some mint stamps to me in an envelope. Well, I could see the top stamp in the lot but the rest was stuck below. He believed that no moisture could enter the envelope. As a matter of fact this is one of the fallacies of the pockets in hingeless albums. The temperature during the whole of the day varies from day to night and a sort of "breathing effect" takes place in such a pocket or envelope. When it is hot the pocket will absorb moisture from the air and when it gets cooler the warm air tries to push out and takes with it the moisture. Unfortunately the tighter the pocket is the less moisture will get out and remain trapped inside. And this is exactly the problem we are faced with, when stamps are packed tightly in envelopes, pockets or albums. One advice I may have is that if you mail out stamps during the summer add into each envelope a little talcum powder. The powder will absorb the moisture and not damage your stamps. Also, never store albums horizontally, always vertically.

The new Holmes Catalogue seems to show very few basic changes. Prices are about the only thing changed. Glancing at the prices we noted with interest a reduction in prices for the cancellations on the earlier issues. The rest, seems to be more sensibly priced than ever before thanks to Jim Sissons. In the case of another catalogue, we were very pleased to hear that the Michel catalogue of Europe and Germany will be delayed for printing in order to completely revise it . The company feels that they should bring out a good catalogue rather than repeat all the errors again and again and save money on printing. We wish such steps were taken by catalogue publishers on this continent. The general dissatisfaction with Scott catalogues could well be taken advantage of by European publishers and a good advertising campaign would enlarge their market considerably over this side.

Something about stamp paper. Some catalogues still refer to the so-called chalky paper of some stamps. This term is misleading and should be deleted from the philatelic vocabulary. European catalogues refer to "painted paper" or

(Continued on page 229)

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Secretary:
COLIN H. BAYLEY
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VISITORS WELCOME

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CHAPTER 5 OF THE ROYAL
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SECOND and FOURTH THURSDAYS
(except in July and August)
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Established 1892

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GARDNER GALLERIES
377 Dundas Street
VISITORS MOST WELCOME

WINDSOR STAMP CLUB

WINDSOR, ONT.

Meetings
First and Third
Mondays, 8 p.m.

RPSC CHAPTER 13

KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meetings 8.30 p.m.
Second Thursday, each month,
Except July and August at the new
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President: Mrs. R. Gillrie,
630 Rockway Dr., Kitchener
Secretary: Harold Beaupré,
81 Dover, Waterloo

LAKEHEAD STAMP CLUB

(RPSC Chapter No. 33)
Meets Second Tuesday and Last Friday of each month in
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Visitors Always We!come
E. C. Tacium, Secretary-Treasurer
2235 Miles St., Fort William, Ont.

● SPECIAL LOW RATES FOR LISTING CHAPTER MEETINGS ●

LUXEMBOURG .... from page 222

she pen up her brood of chicks before the rains come?

We could romance on and on, but space must be saved for the serious philately. They say the beautiful stamps of any country are the semi-postals. We have pointed out some beautiful stamps of Luxembourg and none of them are semi-postals. Think, then, how beautiful must be the semi-postals of Luxembourg! You have collected your stamps, now enjoy them, for, as everyone is saying these days, "It is later than you think".

(Courtesy Weekly Philatelic Gossip)

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CHAPTER MEETINGS

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Secretary : Charles Morshead
1541 Le Marchant St.
Halifax

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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at 8.00 p.m.
President: Dr. R. Martin, Phone 266-2428
Treasurer: Mr. H. N. Bennett, Phone CH 3-0672
Secretary: Mrs. R. H. Lane, Phone AL 5-0862

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G. C. Bolton, President
10024 - 142 St.
E. J. Christensen
Secretary-Treasurer
11612 - 94 Street
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Secretary: R. L. THOMAS
23 Ashbourne Drive — Islington

WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

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184 LOWTHER AVE. TORONTO 4
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2nd and 4th TUESDAYS—7.30 p.m.
VISITORS WELCOME

WESTMOUNT STAMP CLUB

Meetings:
Every Thursday
at 8 p.m.
Juniors at 7 p.m.
Except during the summer months
VICTORIA HALL — WESTMOUNT
● VISITORS WELCOME ●

● SPECIAL LOW RATES FOR LISTING CHAPTER MEETINGS ●

PARLIAMENT HILL.....

from page 227

"papier couché". Chalk has nothing at all to do with the paper. The paper is painted either on one or both sides with a pigment of China clay or Satinwhite with a binder. Stamps on this paper can be recognized by the shine or sometimes by the use of a piece of silver. The metal will leave a mark similar to a pencil mark on such paper. Stamps on this paper should never be subjected to water because the painted surface will dissolve.

The die proof of the new 15¢. airmail stamp has been seen. It is said to be of a very vivid blue colour. The design has been approved and signed by the Postmaster General. If no colour change is made in the final printing we would have a very attractive stamp.

SCOTT'S 1964 CATALOGUES

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WOODMAN
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Western Ontario Regional Exhibition

NOVEMBER 1 - 2, 1963

The First Regional Exhibition and Bourse of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is being held in London, Ont., on the 1 - 2 November 1963, under the sponsorship of the London Philatelic Society.

The Exhibition will be held in the Mall of Wellington Square, London's covered downtown shopping plaza, and will comprise a full programme. The London P.S.'s Fall Stamp Auction will be held on the Friday evening at 9 p.m. at the London City Press Club, followed by a philatelic social hour at the same location.

The climax will be the London P.S.'s Annual Dinner on the Saturday at 6:30 p.m., at which the Hon. Azellus Dennis, Postmaster General of Canada, will be the guest speaker. The Dinner will take place at St. Paul's Cathedral, two blocks from the Mall.

In making their Annual show an RPSC Regional Exhibition, the Club is throwing open the exhibition to all Western Ontario members and chapters of the Royal, including the Barrie Stamp Club and all clubs West of Metropolitan Toronto.

The prospectus of the Exhibition will be sent to all such chapters, and, on request, to all individual members. Such request must be sent to Arnold Benjaminson, 20 Evergreen Ave., London, Ont., Secretary of the London P. S. Entrants will be charged an entry fee of 50¢. per frame. Entries are to be in by October 15 and the exhibition material must be in London by the 25th October.

The Exhibition will be on display in the Mall from 9 a.m. Friday, but the Bourse will not open until noon. (No admission charge). The show will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the Saturday. Bourse activities will follow the same hours, except for the noon opening on the Friday.

An Exhibition of not less than 250 frames is planned, with all displays mounted in the RPSC's modern display frames first introduced at Canpex in Windsor in 1962. Bourse dealers will be limited to the first 16 applicants, with preference to those who held tables at previous London shows.

The auction will consist of not more than 75 lots, so as not to intrude unduly on the social aspect of the Press Club gathering on the Friday night. Arrangements are also being made to give RPSC members Press Club privileges on the Saturday.

The ladies of St. Paul's Church will be providing the popular home-cooked menu at the banquet on the Saturday evening.

The London P. S. is hoping that banquet attendance will be in keeping with the honour which the Postmaster Gen-

(Continued on page 240)

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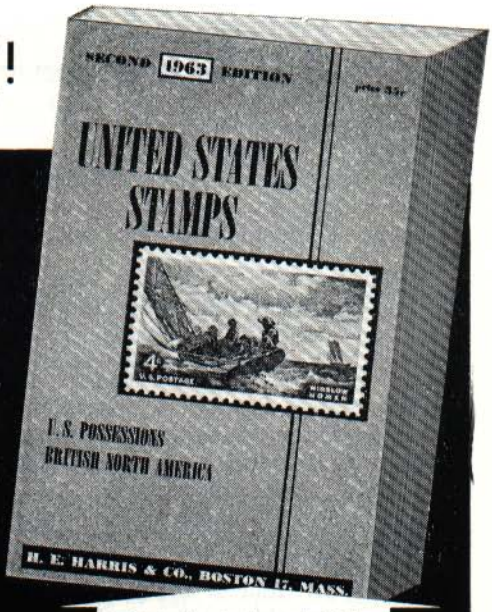

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Book Reviews

HOLMES' SPECIALIZED PHILATELIC CATALOGUE OF CANADA AND BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

The long-awaited Tenth Edition of Holmes' Catalogue of B.N.A. has at last appeared and it is better than ever.

While basically, there have been few changes from the last edition, the pricing has been brought up todate by Jim Sissons and is much more realistic.

The Ryerson Press is to be congratulated on having brought out this new edition and continued the work of the late Dr. L. Seale Holmes.

As Mr. Sissons says in his foreword to this edition: "We are greatly indebted to Dr. Holmes and his associates for preparing this catalogue which went through nine editions during his lifetime and has established itself as an indispensable handbook for any B.N.A. specialist. I am grateful to his son, Dr. Brian Holmes, for the opportunity of assisting with the price revisions."

To the vast army of Canada and B.N.A. collectors, this handbook is a must and cheap at the price.

Price: $9.00, from the Ryerson Press, 299 Queen St., West, Toronto 2-B, Canada, or any reputable dealer.

GUIDE BOOK OF CANADIAN COINS AND MODERN BRITISH COINS

The second printing of the fifth edition of the above, compiled by H. C. Taylor and Somers James, is now available and reflects the current May 1963 prices.

The price of this profusely illustrated handbook of some 200 pages is $1.50 and it can be obtained from Somers James, President of the Regency Coin & Stamp Co., Ltd., 157 Rupert Ave. East, Winnipeg, Man.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE P.O.

The following changes should be noted:

The 15¢. Geese, to replace the current 15¢. Gannet, will not be issued until the 30th October and not as previously announced.

The Frobisher stamp will have been issued on the 21st August and not as previously announced.

The Post Office Bicentenary stamp will appear on the 25th September and not as previously announced.

Other items of interest from the P.O.D.:

The **1954 Queens,** 1c, 2c, 4c, and 5c, overprinted "G" — Out of stock.

The **1954 Queen** 5¢. booklet with "New Cover" — to be deleted.

The **New 2¢. Queen** in **coils** and in **cellophane package,** will not be available for some time.

The **new $1. overprinted "G"** will not be available until 1964.

The new Queens **"tagged" and overprinted "G"** will not have plate numbers.

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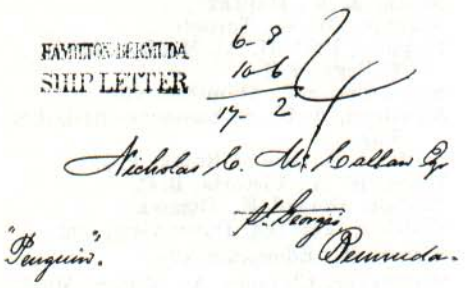
THE MAIL BAG

FINE BERMUDA COVER

Sir:—Thank you very much indeed for sending me the missing copy of the "Canadian Philatelist" and particularly for mentioning Ludington's book on Bermuda to me. Actually I was a pre-publication subscriber to this book, which is extremely well done and a real addition to philatelic literature.

I have been in Bermuda for the last fortnight and, among other things, saw the remarkable collection of Sir Henry Tucker, which actually contains four Postmaster stamps, the Perot stamp in both red and black, plus a later Perot stamp made from the crown circle hand stamp (not listed in the catalogues but referred to in S.G.), and the similar provisional made by Thies, the Postmaster of St. Georges. I also made a minor discovery of two additional examples of an early "Hamilton-Bermuda



Ship Letter" marking, of which it was thought only three copies existed. One of these I was fortunate to acquire. (Photo of back and front herewith).

Again thank you for your thoughtfulness on my behalf.

HENRY D. HICKS,
Halifax (RPSC 7532)

BISHOP MARKS

Sir:—I was very much interested in Mr. J. J. Charron's article in the CP of July-August 1963 covering the Bishop Mark in Canada.

According to one of the best known authorities — Robson Lowe, the Bishop Mark was used in England from 1661-1797 and in America from 1758-1776; in Canada from 1788-1796. However, there is a collector living in Montreal who states that he has a copy of the earliest known Bishop mark in Canada, which bears date of June 7, 1777 and the latest he has is dated Jan. 17, 1799.

I possess one letter bearing a "Red Brown" Bishop Mark dated Aug. 9, (1788), with a small circle between the double circle and without the word "Canada", mailed from Quebec to St. John, New Brunswick, O.S. Diameter of Circle 1⅛". The postage charge was 1 N 6 (One and six pence).

The second cover is similar to that shown in the CP of JULY-AUG. and measures 1 ⅜" diameter, dated Oct. 29 (1795) and addressed to Montreal (P. the Yarmouth Capt. Lilburn) and stamped "SHIP" above. The local postage fee was 10¢.

M. C. DILLINGHAM,
Menlo Park, Calif. (RPSC 7820)

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Glance through the Canadian Philatelist to see the Prominent Firms using its columns to promote their sales. Advertising, to achieve results, should be continuous and cumulative.

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Baugild, G. C., Halifax (2)
Baulch, B. L., Cooksville, Ont.
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Toutain, Gerard F., Ottawa
Walther, Manfred, Downsview, Ont.
Wener, H., Edmonton (2)
Westhaver, Clarence A., Milton, Mass.
Woodman, M. M., Dixville, P.Q.

CHAPTER NEWS from page 226

at a major show. Congratulations, Willard. Very fine going!

- **TRAIL**

Through the Edmonton S. C. bulletin, we learn that John Millen, of the Columbia P. S. of Trail, won a bronze medal at the exhibition of the Northwest Federation with a showing of Trans-Canada Highway on stamps. Well done, John!

Auctions of CANADA and BRITISH EMPIRE held regularly. Catalogue on Request.

1963 36 page BNA catalogue 15c

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I Agree with Robson Lowe

By VERNON McKENZIE, RPSC 7828

Some years ago I was the successful bidder on a lot of some 40 Berlin "First Day Covers." Just a quick glance at them, and back they went, to one of New York's leading auction houses. I refused payment.

I contended that: (a) I would not agree that they were "First Day Covers." or (b) If it is insisted that they are, then they were incorrectly described.

The alleged "covers" were unaddressed. This might make them collectible as objects of art, or curiosities, but certainly not for a serious collector of stamps and covers.

Thus it gave me much satisfaction, in reading the May-June 1963 number of the Canadian Philatelist, to encounter the letter which Robson Lowe, London philatelist, dealer and auctioneer, contributes to each issue. In recounting his Spring visit to Paris, Lowe writes:

"Most of the French dealers have a colourful display of thematic stamps used on unaddressed envelopes, which are calculated to make the true philatelist vomit."

In my disgust with such reprehensible items, it did not occur to me to use such compelling language, but that sentence certainly expresses my sentiments.

(Incidently, the Canadian Philatelist has come along fast under recent editorship, and ranks with the best that come to my desk.)

What is there against unaddressed envelopes (or covers)?

The major count is that they have served no postal purpose. They are worse than the favour-cancelled covers so common abroad (though some countries, Canada and Great Britain for example, are exceptions). Any knowledgeable philatelist realizes that a registration label is no guarantee that a letter has gone through the mail. I have traced the handling of some suspect-covers in my own collections. One, for example, was handed in for registration, duly stamped and labelled, then carried by a complacent Berlin postal clerk to the office next door, and backstamped to show its receipt. Then it was handed back to the man arranging his skul-

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duggery.

On second thoughts, perhaps the unaddressed have one asset: they don't pretend to have gone through the mail!

To make an appeal of any sort, these unaddressed "covers" nearly always are lavishly illustrated. Often tastefully. But that's another objection any true philatelist should make. The art work tends to dwarf the stamp, or stamps.

In Berlin a few weeks ago I ran across an interesting example of how unaddressed, but first-day cancelled, covers, can be put through mail, perhaps weeks later. In the modernistic Congress Hall (known to Berliners as the "Pregnant Oyster" (Scott Berlin 9N136) I came across a rack of stamped, first-day cancelled but unaddressed covers, for sale. I inquired from the booth attendant:

"If I buy several of these, address them and mail them, will the post office add a current cancellation?"

The Brunhilde-type attendant did not know, but courteously telephoned the post office. No, there would be no current cancel. I thanked her, chatted for a few minutes (I fall easily for Brunhildes and Valkyries) and purchased several. Two I mailed to myself, and now I have these covers — apparently mailed "First Days" — and probably only I can tell that they actually were mailed several weeks after the day of issue.

Carefully-prepared and ethical auction lists describe these "vomit" covers accurately. One list before me advertises a batch of Craftmaster United Nations "covers" — unaddressed, with catalogue value of the stamps noted, and a plus sign following, indicating that the items are worth more than the aggregate catalogue value of the stamps.

I'd use a minus sign.

I have another "grouch" which I'll add here, rather than expand into an article: an auction list which notes, for several stamps, "most of these have minor things and small faults, but look nice."

Nice? Not to any real philatelist.

(From Western Stamp Collector)

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For Beginners – The Album

By CLEMENT S. ERNST, SR.

Many letters come along asking what kind of an album should be used. There are so many ways that stamps can be mounted and just as many reasons why one collector likes one method while another will not care for the same method.

There are many collectors who like best of all, the printed album because all he needs to do is hunt the space and "presto" the job is done. These fellows do not have time to "write-up" a collection, and the printed matter on each page seems to satisfy them. Others like to "doll" up the page with fancy drawings which are related to the design of the stamp. If you can do a good job of drawing, then by all means get a blank album and show your skill on each page, it is a lot of fun and it will help you get many more hours of pleasure from the hobby. If you cannot do a good job of lettering to go with the art work, use a typewriter or write it in script, but for goodness sakes please do not letter it if it is going to spoil the effect of the page. I have seen many pages which were nicely drawn but the lettering was so poor that it spoiled it all.

The point system which is used to determine the quality of an exhibit at a stamp show places particular stress on neatness of arrangement, and that does not apply only to the manner in which your stamps are arranged, but also in the complete picture of your page. You may have the finest copies as far as the stamps are concerned, and the drawings may be extra fine, but if the lettering is poor the picture is spoiled and the chances are 10 to 1 that you will lose enough points so that you cannot win a prize. Perhaps you are wondering why I bring in the exhibition angle, it is because I have known so many collectors who started to "doll" up the collection for just this specific reason.

I remember an exhibition in Vancouver, B.C. about twenty years ago when a very fine collection of Rhodesia, complete in singles, including the errors and mounted in a printed album didn't get a nod because of a lack of write-up. The printed matter on the page was all that was needed as far as I was concerned, but because the owner didn't put it there himself it wasn't considered a display of philatelic knowledge. This of course was very silly, because no matter who put it there or how it was treated the information was all that was needed, the perforation, watermark, etc., which is usually shown on any printed album page. Nothing else was needed and it was a very neat collection indeed, but it was practically ignored because the printed matter was not in the hand of the owner. On the other hand a very poorly done page as far as art work is concerned, a page which contained a very poor selection of cheap U.S. won a first prize because it was the only exhibit of U.S. and also because it was "dolled" up by the owner. That is a lot of hokum and the owner of the Rhodesia was justifiably "burned up". The U.S. page wasn't worthy of honorable mention.

If you contemplate using a blank album, be prepared for a lot of work. You must "lay-out" your pages to get it evenly spaced between each stamp. Be sure you get a quadrilled ruled paper, it will help a lot to make the task easier. The small squares will also assist in a much better job of lettering. Place your stamps on the page and move them about to suit your taste, be sure to keep them far enough below the top margin so that you can write your information in the proper space. Too often, and especially if you use a high priced page, the tendency is toward crowding the

page. This is bad, a page should never be crowded and by the same token it should not be kept too "skimpy". Unless a stamp is rare or has some special characteristic that you wish to have called to the attention of others, you should never put just one stamp on a page. A skimpy page offers no beauty, and I am sure that you will find that if you have a set of stamps properly mounted on a page, the real beauty of some of them will be enhanced by comparison with the others.

Another problem confronting the user of a blank album is this matter of write-up. Never use too much space for the information; be concise and you will have a much more attractive page. I have seen pages which were covered with lettering explaining one stamp or perhaps a short set of three or four stamps. Very few people will take the time to read all of the information if you try to "re-write" a book into your album and the work will be wasted.

Here are a few things which are important, and for some of them you will have to do some real research. Be sure first that your information is correct, nothing will make you blush as much as to have someone call your attention to a mis-statement.

Name of designer.
Name of engraver.
Name of printer (firm or person).
Type of paper.
Type of printing (litho., typograph or engraving).
Type of perforation and size.
Year of issue.
Purpose of issue (commemorating an event, or whatever the reason).

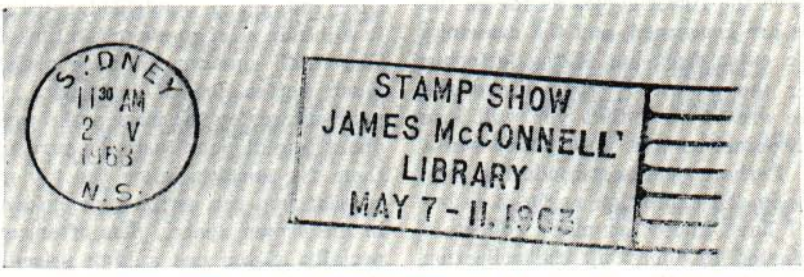
There is no harm in adding anything which you consider important, after all it is your collection and you can do what you like with it. Go as far as you like, but try to guard against too much written material and I am sure that you will like it better.

Be sure to get good paper because there is no sense in doing a lot of work on something which will not stand up. Many album papers do not take all kinds of ink so here you have another problem. The better papers will also allow your hinges to be more easily removed in case you place a stamp where you do not want it. Be sure to allow the hinge to dry before attempting to remove it or you will tear the page.

There are many good loose-leaf blank albums on the market, but like anything else, you get what you pay for. If you intend doing a first class job with your collection the least you can do for it is to get a first class album. You will be repaid every time you look at your collection if you use good material, the reverse is true if you try to stint.

A few last words, especially if you use good paper. If you letter by hand, do it first with a soft pencil, then go over it to make sure you have made no mistakes. If everything is O.K. then go over the pencil lettering with ink and use a good grade eraser and eliminate the pencil marks.

—Courtesy Weekly Philatelic Gossip.



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