

Phila Journal

The official publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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RPSC Affiliate No.4

WHY HAS THE GTAPA EMERGED?

Background

There are seventeen stamp clubs within the boundaries of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) that we know of. They all have regular meetings, special programs with speakers, slide shows, auctions, opportunities to trade stamps and fine folks to share their knowledge of philately.

The Need to Organize

Recognizing the present status of philately in general and specifically within the GTA (an area with a population of over 5 million people), the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance (GTAPA) has emerged in January 2002 to form an "Alliance" to affiliate, but not replace, all stamp clubs in the area. Thus, it has become the fourth "federation" affiliated with the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) operating in Canada. The Alliance joined the North-West Federation (Alberta, BC, and the Northwest US), the Grand River Valley Stamp Association (Southwestern Ontario) and the Fédération québécoise de philatélie (Quebec) as coordinating bodies for stamp collecting in their geographic area.

The Mission

GTAPA is committed to achieve a common goal: to promote and stimulate the art of philately to all ages for fun, culture, education and friendship - partners who really believe that we work best when we work together. Specifically the Alliance will:

- promulgate philately at all levels emphasizing the cultural aspects as well as the stimulus of the ongoing research,
- realize an exchange of experience and knowledge among its affiliated members and partners,
- support affiliated members in terms of organizing philatelic events,
- organize and stage higher level philatelic exhibitions in GTA. ■

THE INSURANCE & BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY JOINS

The Board of Directors of the GTAPA is pleased to announce that the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society has recently joined the Alliance as affiliate No.8. The official club's representatives Joshua Hodgson and Herb Kucera attended their first meeting in March 2003 and were enthusiastically welcomed by the Board members. ■



Do you want to know more about philately? Join
The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Membership is \$30, plus a one-time \$5 admission fee.

For an application form for membership in The RPSC, write to:

The RPSC P.O.Box 929, Station Q Toronto, ON M4T 2P1 or visit their Web site www.rpsc.org.

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East Toronto Stamp Club
Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society
North Toronto Stamp Club
North York Philatelic Society
Scarborough Stamp Club
West Toronto Stamp Club

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An Open Invitation

Philatelic clubs operating in the Greater Toronto Area are invited to join the Alliance. Remember, "we work best when we work together".

For more information contact:

Peter Butler
416-690-4666 or
Email: pbutler@ilap.com

or

Frank Alusio
616-621-8232
Email: falusio@sympatico.ca

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The Alliance meets monthly
on the fourth Wednesday
at the

Vincent G. Greene
Research Foundation,
10 Summerhill Avenue,
Toronto

PhilaJournal

The Official Publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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PhilaJournal is published four times a year, in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The Journal is distributed free of charge to all stamp collectors (450) who belong to a club which is an affiliated member of the Alliance. Copies are also distributed to selected recipients.

Individuals or Affiliated Members are welcome to reprint material from PhilaJournal, with proper credit given to the source.

Editorial Staff falusio@sympatico.ca or 416-621-8232
Editor: Frank Alusio (Acting)
Assistant: Peter Butler (Acting)

The Mission

The mission of the PhilaJournal is to provide its readers with news and information on philately in general with emphasis on the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance members giving them something new and to enjoy.

Opinions expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Alliance. The GTAPA cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information provided herein.

Subscription

Non-members wishing to receive a copy of the Journal (four times a year), by ordinary mail, must send a cheque in the amount of \$10.00 to:

GTAPA, Treasurer,
c/o 331 Rathburn Road,
Toronto, ON M9B 2L9

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Advertising

Any reader, dealer, Institution who may wish to place an ad in the Journal to promote their product or service, may contact:

Art Bone at Tel: 905-883-6091 or
Email: arthur.bone@sympatico.ca

The rates are:

Space	1 issue	4 issues
Up to 5 lines	\$5.00	\$20.00
1/8 page (bus. card)	\$10.00	\$35.00
1/4 page	\$20.00	\$75.00
1/2 page	\$40.00	\$150.00
Full page (8.5x11)	\$80.00	\$300.00

Your feed back is important to us. If anyone has any philatelic item for publication, or any suggestions to improve the PhilaJournal, please contact the editor.

This is the medium that keeps the members of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance in touch and informed.

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The purpose of publishing *PhilaJournal* is two fold: First and foremost is to keep the readership informed on what goes on in the world of philately, in general, and to promote stamp collecting, in particular, in attempting to attract prospective collectors to the hobby.

Secondly, since the Journal is self-financed, there is a great need to sell advertising space to offset its production, printing and distribution costs.

Your support by taking advertising space in the Journal, from a small (five lines) announcement to a full-page, will be your support to promote philately. The more support we get, the better the publication will be created for your enjoyment.

Have a cool Summer!

Frank Alusio, Acting Editor



Contributors:

Frank Alusio, Peter Butler,
Effe, Geoff Ewing, Murray Heifetz,
Herb Kucera, Garfield Portch

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A NEWS RELEASE at the CSDA Show on April 11th

At the opening of the three-day event, a news release was distributed to visitors to the show and to Canadian Stamp News. Rick Day and John Sheffield of the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association, and Frank Alusio and Peter Butler of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance, met to make a joint announcement of a partnership between the two groups, to stage a philatelic exhibition and bourse in Toronto, on October 17, 18, and 19, 2003.

Yes, starting this Fall, the stamp show scene in Toronto will be changing... for the better!

The stamp marketplace, which caters to all levels of collecting, will continue to be a main focus to the show, as it has been at all CSDA shows in the past. The youth/new collector centre with games and activities and the *Canada Post* booth will also be present.

What will be an addition to the program will be an exhibition of youth and novice displays as well as some award-winning exhibits. One highlight of the show will

be a competition amongst the member clubs of the GTAPA showing their best three, one-frame winners from their own shows earlier this year. The Alliance Award trophy will be presented to the winning club. Special presentations, seminars and workshops are also being planned. Further bulletins about these special events to be held during the three show-days, will be announced at a later date.

Watch for them at your club's September meetings.

Meanwhile, clubs have already signed up to be responsible for the planning and organization of the various initiatives, and the many jobs entailed in running such an event will require a large team of volunteers. We hope that you will agree that this is a very exciting opportunity to be a part of a new scene in stamp collecting in Toronto...one of the goals of our organization. We are counting on people like you to get involved, to lend a hand, to make a difference!

Logo Design Winner Donates Prize to GTAPA



As you can see here, the GTAPA now has an official logo for its masthead. You will recall that the Alliance held a competition for the creation of a corporate seal (logo) some months ago.

We had seventeen designs from three clubs and at the March Board Meeting, the directors selected a winner. It was Mrs. Terri Tettmar, a member of the West Toronto Stamp Club. When Frank Alusio informed her that she was the lucky winner, she was very pleased and requested that the \$100 prize be returned to the Alliance to assist with the production expenses of *PhilaJournal*. Needless-to-say, the Board was very pleased with this generous gesture and we thank Terri most sincerely for her thoughtfulness. A letter to that effect was sent to her, along with our thanks and appreciation for her gift.

The Greene Foundation: what does it mean to you?



At the Saturday session of the recent North Toronto Stamp Club's 60th Annual Exhibition and Bourse, I asked that question to 15 attendees. Unfortunately, almost all said that it meant nothing to them. This is troubling

since the Greene Foundation is, "Dedicated to serving the philatelic community with our publications and services." (taken from page 1 of their website)

Asking at my own club, a week earlier, I received a similar response, so I have concluded that since the GTAPA now meets there for its monthly meetings, we should spread the word about this fine philatelic resource, possibly the finest in Canada. And it's in Toronto!

At the outset, may I say that the GTAPA considers itself very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to use the Foundation's meeting room for its monthly Board Meetings. We are proud to be associated with this organization and consider it a prestigious affiliation for the fledgling Alliance.

The Vincent Graves Greene Research Foundation was established in 1975 and obtains its funding from a series of gifts made by Vincent Graves Greene, considered by many to be the Dean of Canadian Philatelists. He was a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, a recipient of the prestigious Lichtenstein Award. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He served on many international juries and made a significant contribution to all areas of our hobby.

The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage and promote research in the fields of philately and postal history, and its five main functions are:

- the establishment of a comprehensive philatelic library for research and study purposes,
- to provide an expertization service for validation of Canadian philatelic and postal history items,
- to conduct and support lectures and courses of study,
- to expand and improve philatelic knowledge of Canadian philatelists and postal historians,
- to encourage, participate and organize exhibitions, competitions and displays,
- to underwrite and publish philatelic research work.

For more information on the Greene Foundation, visit their website at www.greenefoundation.ca Of particular interest to many will be the explanation of their Expertizing Program, Their fees and an application form are there to download, if you are interested in having stamps certified. There is also a listing of current publications available and information on applications for support of projects. Donations are welcome and are eligible for receipts for Income Tax purposes.

The Chairman of the Foundation is Harry Sutherland, RDP, FRPSC, FRPSL and the mailing address is: P.O. Box 204, Postal Station Q, Toronto ON, M4T 1A8 Phone: 416-921-2073 Fax: 416-921-1282 e-mail: vggfoundation@on.aibn.com ■

Peter Butler, President

These R us

" When one turns to stamps,
one enters a special world by
a process resembling a response to art:

One deals with an isolated and
stressed aspect of existence and

One experiences the sense of a
clean, orderly, peaceful, sunlit world...

It is a world for orderly, rational minds "

(Ayn Rand, author of the best-sellers "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead", wrote in a 1971 philatelic journal)

CLUB MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Bramalea Stamp Club

Meets the 1st Sunday (from 2:30 to 4:30pm), October to June and the 3rd Tuesday (from 7:30 to 9:30pm) year round at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd. and Bramalea Rd.), Brampton. For more information, contact Bob Thorne at 905-792-3526 or [Email: r.thorne@sympatico.ca](mailto:r.thorne@sympatico.ca).



East Toronto Stamp Club

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, from September to May, at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Ave. Toronto. For more information, contact Raymond Reakes at 416-425-1545.



Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:00pm of every month (Except in December, when it is the second Thursday) on the premises of Canaccord Capital Corporation, 320 Bay St. 13th floor. For more information, contact either Herb Kucera at 416-494-1428, [Email: herbkucera@rogers.com](mailto:herbkucera@rogers.com) or Josh Hodgson tel: 416-267-6749

At this point there is some question whether the society will have a June meeting. It is usually poorly attended and we may skip it altogether. We have made no plans for our fall meetings at this time. Nor are there any special events planned.

As for membership, the Society's constitution actually requires members to be from the banking or insurance sector, as the name implies. However, we are always happy to welcome visitors.

Our guest speaker on the evening of May 15 was Frank Alusio whose presentation was on thematic collecting and exhibiting including the new One-Frame and the Display Division. He also made us aware of the difference between Topical and Thematic collecting, by way of visual displays, that we never knew before but were afraid to ask.

The members in attendance certainly left the premises with more knowledge about stamp collecting and exhibiting. We do thank our friend Frank for his time and for sharing his vast knowledge of the hobby and in particular thematics.



North Toronto Stamp Club

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from September to June at 7:00pm at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., Toronto, east side, one block north of St. Clair Ave. at Heath St., hence easily accessible by TTC. There is (limited) parking available for members and guests who come by car.

There is a short business meeting at 8:00pm followed by the evenings programme: a speaker or panel discussion. Twice a year we hold floor auctions. The Sales Circuit and a few dealer-members are usually open for business at about 6:30. Coffee and cookies. Besides its annual show in March, the Club runs three one-day bourses each year at the Civic Garden Centre (see Stamp Shows & Bourse column).

Annual membership dues are \$15. Visitors are always welcome.

Spring and Summer Programme:

May 8, Panel Discussion -- Developing as a Collector -- three members will discuss their experiences with the hobby over time.

May 22, Geoff Ewing (with possible assistance) will talk on Aspects of Collecting Perfins -- Proof of User, Location and Dates of Usage.

June 12, Dr. Don Welsh will speak on The Marine Post Offices of New Zealand, 1923-1938

June 26, Speaker to be announced.

Summer Dinners: the third Thursday of each of the summer months -- July 17 and August 21 -- to be held at the Bedford Restaurant at the north-west corner of Yonge St. and Laurence Ave. beginning about 6:00pm on shortly thereafter. Dates to be confirmed. These are informal social get-togethers. No RSVP required -- just come if you wish.

September 11, -- Clothes Line Exhibit -- members bring one (or more) page(s) of "interesting stuff" and have a few minutes to describe it. Members present vote on the exhibits and the winner receives a prize.

60th Annual Exhibition and Bourse -- March 22 and 23, 2003

The Exhibition was a success. Many thanks to the judges, Murray Heifetz and Frank Alusio.

There were 16 One-Frame exhibits (13 of them in competition) and one 6-page exhibit (not in competition). 1st place: **John Wilson** for "*British Guiana Sea Mails*"; 2nd place: **Don Welsh** for "*Fiji - Postal History of the Lautoka Area*"; 3rd place: **Doug Irwin** for "*Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls, 1800-1900*".

These three exhibits will be the North Toronto Stamp Club's representatives in the GTAPA's first annual inter-club exhibition in October, 2003.

On Saturday the room was filled for most of the day; Sunday was much quieter as usual. Dealers reported a successful show and although tired they were pleased.

For more information, contact Geoff Ewing at 416-653-3954 or by Email at geoffewing@sympatico.ca



North York Philatelic Society

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm, from September to June, in the lounge of the Centennial Arena, north side of Finch Avenue West, west of Bathurst Street. For more information, contact: Joe Malboeuf at 905-884-5503.



Scarborough Stamp Club

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, at 7:00pm, from September to June, at Cedarbrook Community Centre, south-east corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. For more information, contact Peter Butler at 416-690-4666 or Email: pbutler@ilap.com

At the April meeting, the club welcomed three new members: **Alan Chan**, **Ken Phung**, and **Peter Lim** to its growing membership. At the previous meeting we welcomed four new members, including our first youth member in many a year: **Arthur Wilkinson**, **Ralph Bourne**, **Dan Browett**, and his son, **Matthew Browett**. The new members are all enthusiastic collectors and are thrilled with the variety of material in our circuit books and "Woolworth's Table".

Our commissar of memberships and greeter, **Mary Treloar**, announced at the April meeting, that there were over 50 members present. More chairs were brought in to accommodate everyone for the meeting and the auction that followed.

SSC's Woolworth's Table.

Have you figured out yet what a Woolworth's Table is? Those of you who remember the 5 and 10 cent stores, Woolworth's and Kresge's, will readily make the connection. We've commandeered the term to fit a separate table we have created at club meetings. All books on this table contain stamps that are 5 and 10 cents. No cataloguing, no individual pricing, no mounting and no organization by country are required. Members submit stock books filled with mint or used stamps. Some members have also submitted older albums with only the cheaper stamps remaining. Records are kept of the number of stamps entered. The omnivores are then set loose to remove stamps to add to their collections. Topical/thematic collectors take particular pleasure in this form of searching. You would be amazed at the holes one can fill with this approach to buying stamps... which probably explains why the table is always full to overflowing, at club meetings. If you don't have circuit books at your club, you may want to consider this 5¢ & 10¢ initiative, to spark your before-the-meeting time slot.

Stop the Press!

Thanks to acting editor, Frank Alusio, for saving space for a last minute item before going to press. Our club hosted its annual Exhibition and Bourse, **Scarpex 2003**, on May 10th and it is proud to announce the names of the 3 winners of the competition. Every one of the exhibitors was a true winner and will receive Certificates of Commendation from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. **Dave Ashley's** multi-frame topical collection "*The Anniversary of Roland Hill's Death*" was awarded a second place ribbon. The one-frame awards went to: 1st place, **Josh Hodgson** for "*Canadian Express Label*"; 2nd place, **Karl Wysotski** for "*King of the Night-Great Horned Owl*"; and 3rd place, **Percy Bourne** for "*New Zealand's Ads on Stamps*". Their exhibits will represent our Club at the CSDA/GTAPA Show next October, in competition with all member clubs, for the Alliance Trophy.

West Toronto Stamp Club

Meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm, from September to June, at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue, (3 blocks south of Bloor St. West, and 2 blocks east of Islington Ave.). For more information, contact Frank Alusio at 416-621-8232

June 10

- Regular Meeting and Show and Tell (about 15 minutes)
- Oral Auction consisting of 50 lots each catalogue valued \$10 and over
- Table Auction consisting of 100-150 lots each valued between \$3-10
- One to three dealers are always in attendance to offer their products.

June 17

2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the **Drake Trophy**. It was in 1953 when the late past Presidents of many years, Mr. Everett N. Drake, donated the trophy to the Club.

Five frames are available for this competition. The rule is that participant members are required to fill an entry form (available from Frank Alusio) and submit a 16-page exhibit. The evaluation will be performed by those in attendance guided by the Chairperson following the established criteria. The first three will qualify to compete for the Alliance Award in October 2003.

June 24

- Regular Meeting and Show and Tell (about 15 minute)
- Oral Auction consisting of 50 lots each catalogue valued at \$10 and over
- Table Auction consisting of 100-150 lots each valued between \$3-10
- One to three dealers are always in attendance to offer their products.

Elections 2003-2005. On May 13, the Club held its bi-annual Elections of Officers and Directors resulting in the following members being elected (E) or re-elected (R).

Officers:	President	Frank Alusio	(E)
	Past President	Reay Cairns	
	Vice-President	Gerry Quidzinski	(R)
	Secretary	Stan Shakespeare	(E)
	Treasurer	John Laraway	(E)
	Membership	Anne Westhouse	(R)
Directors:	Reay Cairns	(E)	
	Bruce Coleman	(E)	
	Fred Froud	(R)	
	George MacLean	(R)	
	Garfield Portch	(R)	
	Gord Payne	(E)	



excerpts from the philatelic press...

& comments from Peter Butler

The death recently of Oxford professor Michael Argyle, a British psychologist, focused attention on his investigations into what makes people happy. Argyle wrote a book on the subject: *The Psychology of Happiness*. He determined that a major source of happiness is, "a leisure pursuit to which we devote ourselves fairly thoroughly." He didn't name philately specifically but it clearly meets his standard of, "satisfying and constructive leisure". Thus we are adding it to our canon of reasons to collect stamps. It becomes reason number 12! Here's a dozen reasons why even those who don't collect stamps should encourage others to do so:

1. **The stamp hobby is educational.** Few collectors would dispute the notion that stamp collectors are brighter than non-collectors. Exposure to stamps, especially the young, expands the mind and helps them learn subjects that schools have difficulty teaching: history, geography and math.
2. **The stamp hobby is goal-oriented.** Gurus in the human potential movement have made millions teaching the masses how to set and achieve goals. Setting goals is the essence of our hobby; filling in spaces, searching for the one stamp to complete a page, assembling a collection, exhibiting.
3. **The stamp hobby promotes free-market values.** Authoritarian regimes suppressed or tried to control stamp collecting because of its individualistic nature. Every collector is a part-time or potential dealer. For youngsters it is their first hands-on introduction into the workings of capitalism.
4. **The stamp hobby is harmless.** In an era when extreme sports are all the rage, when bungee-jumping and parachuting are popular diversions, there's something to be said for a hobby that entertains individuals in the quiet of their own rooms.
5. **The stamp hobby creates stable marriages.** It's a fact, stamp collectors have a lower-than-average divorce rate. It is also true that stamp collectors create more stable families which benefits society overall. Cynics would have us believe that the reason for fewer divorces is that collectors endure bad marriages because they don't want the risk of losing their collections in the settlement.
6. **The stamp hobby nourishes old age.** Unlike active sports and other outdoor activities, that must be curtailed or abandoned with advancing age, stamp collecting can be enjoyed as long as sight remains.
7. **The stamp hobby can be a source of funds.** Unlike more active hobbies, stamps can yield some salvage value at the end. Nobody thinks of cashing in their bowling balls or cross-country skis, but a thoughtfully created collection, is likely to contain items that other collector will desire, thus creating a source of funds to help support retirement.
8. **The stamp hobby encourages diversity and tolerance.** One of the glories of collecting is that you can collect what and

how you please. New collectors soon learn that every collection is different, and learn to respect such differences, even to celebrate them.

9. **The stamp hobby creates community.** The local stamp club is typically one of the most egalitarian institutions around. Stamps cut across all cultural and economic lines and all ages and social strata participate as equals.

10. **The stamp hobby creates friendships.** When you ask them, collectors agree that they acquired many of their oldest and closest friends through stamp collecting.

11. **The stamp hobby is fun.** This should be self-evident, but often, hobbyists get so caught up in their endeavors, they lose sight of this basic truth. Thus...

12. **The stamp hobby makes you happy.** Professor Argyle, may he rest in peace, proved this in his laboratory.

Michael Lawrence,
Linn's Stamp News, February 17, 2003

While all this good news about stamp collecting being a good thing is reassuring, I'd like to suggest that there is another side to the... ah stamp! In fact, I'd like to petition the; RCPS and APS, the ASDA and CSDA, Canada Post and the United States Postal Service, to consider instituting a policy requiring warning labels on dealer advertisements, auction catalogues, mint packages and philatelic newspapers, and all other stamp marketing materials, to properly warn people about the dangers of the hobby.

Stamp collecting is addictive. It is worse than tobacco. It prevents collectors from getting the proper amount of sleep and the sedentary nature of the hobby can have a negative effect on one's body. It also causes collectors to miss meals and overlook other important marital activities and family responsibilities. And stamp collecting is financially dangerous too. Unlike casinos, patrons pay a buyer's premium and feel the pain because they don't even get free booze. Further, uncontrollable excitement at stamp shows can lead inevitably to financial ruin, even worse, it can cause pacemakers to malfunction! ■

GTAPA PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

There are a number of projects/initiatives which the Alliance has set to undertake during the 2003-3 fiscal year. Here are the salient ones.

1. Solicit members to submit designs for a Corporate Seal (logo) contest.

The design, submitted by West Toronto member Mrs. Terri Tettmar, was selected and approved by the Board.

2. Establish a master list of speakers who are willing to speak at member clubs meetings.

Project underway; the list is being prepared and will be made available to all member clubs.

3. Engage an artist to design a trophy for the Alliance Philatelic Exhibition Award.

Project has been commissioned, work is underway, completion is scheduled for mid-summer.

4. Plan and stage a regional philatelic exhibition in October 2003 as a joint-venture with the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association.

Teams have been established, a work plan is in place and team leaders, under the direction of a manager, are formulating a budget.

5. Write up the PhilaJournal Guidelines and Terms of Reference.

Guidelines were approved by the Executive and now in place.

One- Frame Exhibits



The idea behind one frame exhibiting is two fold. It is intended as a stepping stone to exhibiting for those collectors who have never tried it before and are perhaps intimidated by larger exhibits. It is also a vehicle for those who have a particular topic for which little material is available for a larger display but for which a story can be told within 16 pages. As this type of exhibit is relatively new in Canada, judges have found a number of common errors made by both groups. In part, this may be due to a lack of awareness of the guidelines used to judge, and of the rules for one frame exhibits as adopted by both the American Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. This article is intended to highlight some of the more common exhibiting mistakes found.

1. Choice of Topic - This is perhaps the most important step to take. Choosing an inappropriate topic can lead to a very poor mark. The topic must be one for which the story can be told completely within one frame but for which there is insufficient material for a multi-frame exhibit. It cannot be a selection of better items from a larger exhibit. It should also be a topic about which the exhibitor has reasonable knowledge. If the subject is one which normally would be multi-frame, this can be solved by taking a small segment of the topic and limiting the scope to this smaller idea.

2. Synopsis - This is not a mistake of the exhibitor but rather of the exhibition committee. The very idea of a one framer lends itself to highly specialized topics of an unlimited variety.

Most judges will lack any depth of knowledge of the topic and most have little, if any, literature to study. It is the obligation of the exhibitor to educate the judge regarding the purpose and scope of the exhibit, outline the intended method of development of the story, and point out any rarities or special items worthy of attention. This cannot be easily done on the exhibit pages and is best done by an advance synopsis, which is unrestricted as to content.

3. Title or Plan Page - There is a slight difference in requirements for a thematic exhibit versus any other type. The "Plan" page refers to thematic, the "Title" page to all others. Title pages must be the first page in the exhibit. How well you do it is worth 10% of total marks.

Many exhibits seen do not have this page, or have a very poor attempt. They must be clear in the purpose and scope (including time frame) of the exhibit and laid out in such a way that it becomes easy for the judge or any other observer to follow the flow of the story. It should be directly applicable to the topic and not be filled with irrelevant, auxiliary information.

4. Development - The development should be in a proper sequence and correct within the scope of the title page. We frequently see pages of material with dates earlier than preceding pages which are out of place, or pages of material with dates later than the scope of the topic.

An effort should be made to use the full page. Where you have only one item, don't fill the remainder with a photocopy of the reverse unless this has a relevant purpose. Don't fill it with sketches or photocopies of postmarks or other markings which are easily seen on the cover.

5. Relevancy - If you show an item which at first glance appears to be a duplicate usage of an already shown example, have some text to explain why you show it. Duplications of usage, of postmarks, etc. just to fill space, should be avoided. All items shown must be relevant to the basic theme. If you include an item appearing to vary from this, have text to explain.

6. Knowledge - This is displayed by (1) selection of material used in the development. (2) proper text explaining the item succinctly (3) proper analysis of the item such as the rate of postage in a postal history or aerophilatelic exhibit and (4) accuracy of information. The old adage of "the material speaks for itself" is no longer applicable.

7. Material - Covers and stamps should be in the best condition in which you can find them. Try to avoid mixing used and mint stamps on the same page unless there is a reason that you will explain with text. Where both philatelic and commercial usage of stamps are available, commercial usage is preferred. In a traditional (postage stamps) or postal history exhibit, examples of usage to scarce destinations is desirable. In a thematic exhibit, the widest use of various philatelic elements is essential. An exhibit showing only stamps, i.e. a topical not a thematic, does not fulfill this requirement. ■

Club Apprenticeship

Is your club full of officers and workers who have been doing their jobs for decades? Well, maybe it just seems that long! Nevertheless, your club may have workers who need a break from their duties. But, they may be so firmly entrenched in these jobs that turning things over to a new person may be difficult. Simply turning over a folder won't be sufficient to train a new individual in all the nuances of a job.

So, what's the solution? Have your club encourage the more experienced workers to take on apprentices for a year. Throughout the year, the apprentice can learn the duties, the history, and the thought processes that go into problem-solving for the job. This is a great idea for club jobs that are usually held by one person for a long time, like the treasurer. If your treasurer (or any other long-standing worker) needs a break, start looking around for a treasurer-elect to assist!

Royal 2003 Royale
Hanover, Ontario

30 May – 1 June 2003.

Over 200 / 16-page frames of exhibits

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For more information, contact Herb at 416-445-7720, fax:

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Bus Excursion to Royal 2003

As a service to member clubs, the Alliance programmed a one-day bus excursion to Royal 2003 to and from Hanover, Ontario. When it was announced at each club, late last year, the idea was received with great enthusiasm. However, at the time when the tickets went on sale, it was another story. Collectors were forming car pools of their own instead of traveling with a large group on a bus.

It is with regret to announce that, due to a meager sale of tickets (25, with a break even point of 37), **the bus excursion has been cancelled.** The Alliance will attempt to organize a similar outing in the future when another occasion will arise. Reimbursement for the tickets sold will take place through the club representatives.



One of the great joys of a philatelic library comes from the opportunity to review the events of the past as viewed by the participants of the day. I am fortunate to own a complete set of both **The Canadian Philatelist** and **BNA Topics**, the journals of the Royal Canadian Philatelic Society and the British North America Philatelic Society respectively.

In this column, I shall try to summarize the events as published in the first quarter of 1953.

The RPSC was gearing up for its Silver Jubilee Convention to be held in the King Edward Hotel in Toronto in mid April.

The Postmaster General of Canada, the Honourable Alcide Cote delivered a speech to the R.A. Stamp Club in Ottawa. His opening remarks dealt with the value of introducing children to stamp collecting as a means of enhancing their education and also keeping them out of trouble. He discussed stamp design, the artists (Emanuel Hahn and A.L. Pollock) and upcoming stamp issue programmes. He also stated "You have no cause to fear, moreover, that the Post Office Department will abandon its traditional policy of restraint when it comes to putting out new issues – so that any accusation of exploitation of the philatelic fraternity cannot justly be made".

Other articles include the following titles: *Covers...and how to get them*; *Helping the Kids*; and, *Austrian Charities*.

The inside back cover featured an advert from the Empire Stamp Company offering sets of mint Canadian stamps: 1897 Jubilee complete \$177.50; 1908 Quebec Tercentenary \$13.95; and 1924 imperforate Admiral blocks \$16.00.

BNA TOPICS was a monthly publication in 1953. It tended to focus on relatively in-depth studies of BNA Postal History. There was a continuing series on *Canadian Prisoner of War Mail* by Lt.-Col. L. W. Sharpe and the beginning of a technical study of Newfoundland perforations by Marshall Kay.

The big advertisement of January 1953 was the disposition of material from the Alfred F. Lichtenstein sale. Included were sets of imperforate blocks of 4 of the 1927-28 Pictorial set for \$300 per set.

Vincent Greene wrote a column "*Sketches of BNAPSers*" where he wrote about Harry Lussey and Cleo H. Fee.

March was the 100th issue of TOPICS. Feature articles presented Newfoundland Plate Varieties; Early Canadian Blocks; Squared Circles; and Admiral dies. The authors of these studies were laying the foundations for today's knowledge base. These articles demonstrate that good philatelic articles are timeless!

Social notes include a notice that a BNAPS member was wounded in Korea and was recovering in Japan having been treated for nine bullet wounds.

Hans Reiche wrote an article entitled *Constant Plate Varieties*. I somehow suspect that this was the humble beginning for his book published in 1982. ■



Cancels to Collect

Are you aware that Canada Post produces philatelic pictorial cancels to collect? See their publication "Details" for the listing. These cancels are available on an ongoing basis from the respective post offices across Canada. To obtain any of these cancels, send your stamped envelopes with proper domestic rate (48¢) inside a stamped envelope addressed to "Postmaster" followed by the name and full address of the post office as it appears below the particular cancel (see sample here). Be sure to enclose a self-addressed envelope pre-stamped with sufficient postage for return mailing. To view all current cancels visit Canada Post website at:

www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting

Don't miss them! If you are a thematic collector these cancels are essential for your collection/exhibit.



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1956 Route 3
Harvey Station NB E6K 1H0



Cathcart Post Office
Highway 53
Cathcart ON N0E 1B0

Adopt a Group

Have you considered adopting another group, making them an "associate" of your own club? Here are just a few ideas for accomplishing this in your own community.

Youth groups – No matter where you live, there is an elementary school nearby. Check in with the principal and offer to give a beginner's seminar or two to students aged 10-12. Teachers appreciate the opportunity to expose students to a fun and educational hobby. If you'd prefer, start your own neighbourhood youth club, or seek out a Boy or Girl Scout troop and offer your expertise and enthusiasm.

Community and senior citizen centres – Emphasis for beginning collectors has almost exclusively been with youngsters, but here's an area that shouldn't be neglected. It's never too late to start a new hobby, and philately offers great possibilities. ■

Point of View

"No, the stamp is not off-center... that's the Leaning Tower of Pisa"



Reprinted from 1965 edition of Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal



Postal Relay Service

The oldest postal relay service in the world was organized by Cyrus the Great, ruler of the Persian Empire, in 539 BC. The Greek historian Herodotus (c484-425 BC) gives a vivid description of this system in his *Histories*: "Nothing is more expeditious than the method of transmitting messages, invented and used by the Persians. Along each route, at regular intervals equal to one day's journey, were relays of men and horses, housed in stations specially set up for the purpose. Snow, rain, cold or darkness could not prevent the messengers carrying on their work with the greatest speed. The first man to arrive passed the dispatches to the second, who then passed them on to a third, and so on, until the dispatches arrived at their destination. In the Persian language these relays were known as *angareion*."

This was confirmed by the historian Xenophon (430-c350 BC), in his *Cyropedia*, 6: "Here is another invention of Cyrus, very helpful in the government of his vast empire, as it brought prompt information from every part of his dominions. Stables were set up at intervals equal to the distance which a horse could travel in a day without becoming exhausted; each stable had horses and grooms to look after them. He appointed to each station an intelligent man who would deliver to one courier the letters brought by another; who would provide rest and refreshment for the tired couriers and horses, and who would control the finances. Moreover, night did not hold back the progress of these messengers; a messenger who arrived by day would be replaced by another who would travel by night. They seemed faster than the flight of birds. It is no exaggeration to say that no other men could travel more rapidly across the earth."

Postal Regulations

The earliest postal regulations date from the 4th century AD and concern the running of the *Cursus Publicus*, or Roman imperial postal system. Overall control was vested in the Prefect of the Praetorian Guard who was directly responsible to the Emperor himself. The *curiosi* (postal surveyors or inspectors) checked the smooth operation of the posts and ensured that the regulations were strictly adhered to. The day-to-day running of the service was the responsibility of the *praefectus vehiculorum* (transport chief) in each province. Each postal station was headed by the *stationarius* (postmaster) who administered the postillions, ostlers, blacksmith and other staff and kept records of arrivals and departures. The *tabellarii* (messengers) carried the mails, varying both routes and working hours to suit themselves. The state was responsible for the upkeep of roads, and postal vehicles, and the salaries of the personnel, but each district was responsible for the maintenance of the relay stations. The Roman system fell into decay in the 5th century, although parts of it survived in the Visigothic kingdom of Spain (6th century) and in the dominions of Charlemagne (8th century).



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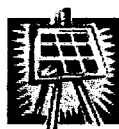
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