

PhilaJournal

The official publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance
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Area Philatelic Alliance
Greater Toronto
gtapa

RPSC Affiliate No.4

STAMPEX 2003...A GREAT SUCCESS

By all accounts that we have seen and heard, it would appear that STAMPEX 2003 was a great success. We will however, reserve our final words of congratulations to those who contributed to making it happen, until the show evaluation has been received. Copies of it will be shared with all club members in the *Alliance*, as soon as we have received it. You might ask, "Why an evaluation?"

The Board believed that an objective evaluation of our efforts to revive STAMPEX, would be an important step in making the annual marketplace and exhibition a viable, responsive and successful event for collectors to enjoy and learn more about their hobby.

STAMPEX 2003



Awards Chair, Garfield Portch (R) presenting the Club Challenge Award trophy to John Wilson of the North Toronto Stamp

We unanimously agreed to commission an evaluation, and that George Pepall would make an excellent choice as an evaluator. As a high school teacher, George is familiar with evaluation procedures. He understands that an objective evaluation is ultimately the most effective way to decide what improvements are necessary to improve the product. As a well respected philatelist, a regional judge, a member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and a long time member of the Kitchener-Waterloo Stamp Club, he understands the importance of reviewing program.

(continue on page 3)

Season's Greetings

The Board of Directors 2002-2004

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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

Assistant: Peter Butler

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 interesting 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

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: artur.bone@sympatico.ca.

The rates are:

Space	1 issue	4 issues
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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 Journal, please contact the editor.

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

This publication is made possible by the contribution of the advertisers. Do patronize them whenever possible.
Mention you saw their ad in PhilaJournal.

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

If there was ever any doubt about the capability of the GTAPA to hold a regional stamp exhibition, let that lack of confidence now, be put to rest. STAMPEX was a great success and it was due to the enthusiasm present on the Board of the Alliance.

We delivered a quality show with our own in-house resources, experience, innovation and determination.

We succeeded thanks to the financial and moral support of our partner, the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association, the generosity of our donors and the advertisers.

The budgetary resources were formulated, the project came within the budget, and after all the expenses were accounted for, we have been able to establish a reserve fund for future events. This was due to the experience, dedication and hard work present on the GTAPA Team.

As Chair of the exhibition component of STAMPEX 2003, I would like to convey my personal thanks to Team Leaders: Peter Butler, Doug Irwin, Ernie Nyitrai, Garfield Portch, Bob Thorne and the many volunteers from Club Members affiliated with GTAPA, without whom it would have not been the success that it was.

Frank Alusio



Contributors:

Frank Alusio, Dorothy Attwells, Peter Butler, Effe, Geoff Ewing, Art Halpert, Herb Kucera, Garfield Portch, Bob Thorne.

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"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and work on my stamp collection."

Groucho Marx

STAMPEX 2003...*(Continued from front page)*

Of finding out what worked and what didn't, then suggesting to the GTAPA in partnership with CSDA, what new initiatives could be considered to make the show better and even more responsive to collectors, clubs and dealers. We await George's message.

In the meantime, revel in such positive responses as these:

"I understand that Stampex was a great success and I appreciate the message on the back page with respect to the Foundation. I was also very pleased to see the history of the predecessors on the inside back cover."

*Harry Sutherland, RDP, FRPSC,
Chair of the V. G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation*

"I think that the GTAPA group did an excellent job. Of particular importance was the beginners exhibits and the demonstrations of 'How to do it'. If a way could be found to get the story out to the schools earlier it would be good. Not everyone is interested in the expensive and high flying invited exhibits that are often on view at such shows. Young collectors will, God willing, become old experts if they receive the right encouragement. A good first effort."

Ken Rowe, RDP, FRPSC

"I think the GTAPA group did a great job in resurrecting the STAMPEX show. You had wonderful exhibits spanning a good spectrum of interests and good dealers displaying their wares."

*Gus Knierim,
Editor, Postal History Society of Canada's Journal*

"I enjoyed the "new" STAMPEX with the exhibits on Saturday. Thanks for making it happen!"

Ken Magee, Co-chair RPSC's "Royal" at Hanover

It is clear to me, as your *Alliance* president, that we do indeed have the human resources and the organizational ability to present a successful regional show. It would also be clear, to those who attended STAMPEX, that the partnership with the CDSA is working well and promises to grow and solidify in the future. I can tell you that even before the show had concluded, John Sheffield and company were suggesting ideas for consideration for next year's show. That "positiveness" is worth its weight in gold.

And while the figures from our treasurer Frank Alusio are not in a final report yet, he feels confident that we came well under budget. It would also appear that we have the ability to plan and deliver a realistic budget and remain in the black. To our donors, our partners and our advertisers, we say thank you sincerely, for believing in us and helping to fund the event. Do stick with us! To the members of our clubs who worked together as organization leaders and volunteer assistants, including exhibitors and presenters, and to the members who attended STAMPEX and supported our efforts, we extend heartfelt thanks. We literally could not have done it without you, the membership. If you would like to join our merry throng next time, do speak up. We are beginning to plan for 2004

and we would love to have additions to the team. Please call me or speak to your club president about how you would

like to help. Remember the *PhilaJournal's* Open Invitation, "We work best when we work together." ■

Enjoy your hobby, Peter Butler

STAMPEX 2003



Betty Beddoes at the Youth Booth fostering stamp collecting to future philatelists



WHY WE'VE SUCCEEDED

by Frank Alusio

"Success comes to those who make it happen, not those who let it happen"

Planning, programming, organizing and staging a philatelic exhibition is not done by one single person. It takes a team of dedicated men and women, from the greeter to the chairperson, committed to achieve success.

Unlike traditional philatelic exhibitions, STAMPEX 2003 did things differently.

- We put the human touch into it, (by greeting the visitor at the door with a friendly welcome and handing out copies of the show program;
- we considered the young (by inviting stamp collectors in grade 3-6 to display mounted pages);
- we provided informative displays (by showing the visitor from the basics of collecting, through why and how to exhibit, to participation in the various levels of exhibitions);
- we invited new stamp collectors (by display their first exhibits in a non-competitive class);
- we offered the seasoned collectors award-winning exhibits (by showing competitive exhibits and exhibits by invitation);

all done in an attractive presentation as an integrated part of the exhibition. The *Alliance* is proud and very grateful to all those who worked together to produce STAMPEX 2003.

Organizing Committee – Frank Alusio (WT), Peter Butler (Sc), Doug Irwin, Ernie Nitray (NT), Garfield Portch (WT), Bob Thorne (Br)

Greeters – Mac Babin, Wendy Bargh, Alice Burke (Sc), Reay Cairn, Herb Kucera (I&B) John Laraway, George MacLean, Aulis Narhi, Stan Shakespeare, Eric Tettmar, Terri Tettmar (WT)

GTAPA Booth – Art Bone, John Moffat (NY), Jim Carleton (Sc), Ernie Nyitrai (NT), Elaine Skinner (ET)

Docent – John Laraway (WT)

Presenters – Frank Alusio, Garfield Portch (WT); Art Halpert (NY); Murray Heifetz (NT); Ian Kimmerly (Ottawa); Marios Theodosiou (Unitrade); Connie Gregory (Hugh Wood Canada); John Sheffield (CSDA).

Workshop – Dave Ashley, Ivan Bowers, Karl Wysotski (Sc), Elaine Skinner (ET).

Will others join in next time?

"The road to success is Always Under Construction"



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

STAMPEX '03 Raffle Winners

At the STAMPEX Show, the GTAPA held a fundraiser raffle with gifts provided by *Canada Post*. Winners picked up their prize at our booth, received delivery from a colleague or had the prize mailed to them. The winners were:

- *Framed limited edition prints* – Fred Waller of Toronto, Karl Wysotski of Millbrook, and Bret Evans of St. Catharines,
- *2001 Collections of Canadian Stamps* – Ernie Nyitrai of Unionville and Jim Carleton of Scarborough,
- *Year of the Ram Presentation Pac* – Steve Singh of Brampton,
- *Coin & Stamp Sets, 2001 Skating Championships* – M. Thakie of Collingwood, Bruce Steevos of Pickering, Silvia Quidzinski of Etobicoke, Arthur Chow of Scarborough, Roy Haina of Oshawa and Lighthouse Publications of Montreal,
- *Beginners Stamp Collectors Kit* – Wendy Bargh of Scarborough and Howie Mason of Bayfield,
- *Playing Card sets* – Trevor Barden of Utterson, Klaus Muller of Chesley, Katherine Miskiv of Toronto, Bill Coates CSDA dealer, Terri Tettmar of Toronto and John Hines of Scarborough,
- *Bobble Head "Perf" Doll* – Richard Stewart of Fergus and Greg Service of Toronto.

Special thanks are extended to Elaine Skinner and Jim Carleton (Scarborough Stamp Club) who organized the

many details of the raffle and to all their assistants from the *GTAPA* clubs who joined them to sell tickets. The group raised over \$250.00. Special thanks and admiration are sent along to Ernie Nyitrai, (North Toronto Stamp Club) our raffle cheerleader, who seldom let a collector past our booth without extruding a buck or two to support the cause. Well done Ernie: we're sorry you didn't win a prize this time!

STAMPEX 2003



Elaine Skinner from the East Toronto Stamp Club and Jim Carleton from the Scarborough Stamp Club promoting fundraising at GTAPA booth

Extra Programs, Show Covers and Postcards

Members of the executive will be traveling around to club meetings throughout November, to present awards to individuals who participated in STAMPEX as exhibitors and volunteer assistants. If you didn't get to see the Club Challenge Award trophy or purchase collectable show cards and covers, don't miss this last opportunity. If you have any questions or suggestions for the *Alliance* executive, please consider bringing them to our attention at this visit.

The Best Membership Buy in Philately!

Just in case this notion has passed you by, you should understand that your club's investment in monetary terms, in the *GTAPA* amounts to one dollar per member. That is what the *Alliance* asks of its member clubs... one dollar per membership. Consider for a moment, what that dollar earns for you.

Along with funds raised from such activities as raffles, advertising and donations, the *GTAPA* budget each year includes the following expenses:

- our annual dues, as an affiliate, in the *Royal Philatelic Society of Canada*
- the insurance premium for third party liability insurance at any *Alliance* function
- the production cost of publishing four issues of *PhilaJournal*
- associate membership in other philatelic organizations e.g. *GRVPA* (see item below)

There will be additional perks for you as a member of the *Alliance*, to be announced in the coming months. Here is mention of just two activities we are presently working on... for you, our members.

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Invitation from the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association

For years now, some collectors have been aware of the *GRVPA's Stamp Fairs*, held each year in the Fall, for their members. It is an opportunity for their 13 stamp clubs, to bring their circuit books to one location, for collectors to spend a day, rummaging through the books to find material for their collections. Next October, the *GTAPA* has been invited to join in their next *Stamp Fair*. That means our clubs and their circuit books, will have the opportunity to sell their material alongside the 13 clubs of the *Association*. It also means that the members of all 20 stamp clubs will have a glorious opportunity to meet together informally, to chat about stamps and to join in the buying spree. We extend a hearty vote of thanks to the Grand River crew for inviting the *Alliance* to join in their very successful venture.

At this point, the date has not been announced: the location will be the home of the *Bramalea Stamp Club*, the Jim Archdekin Recreational Centre, Brampton. This is a logical location since this club is a member of both the *GRVPA* and the *GTAPA*. We look forward to this event with great anticipation, and we will let the membership know as soon as the date is announced.

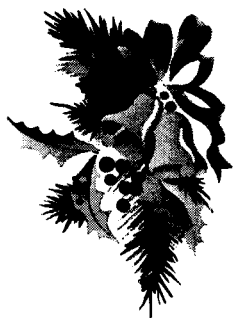
Philatelic Research and the Greene Foundation

While we are still working out the details of such an arrangement, it is with some pride and excitement that we announce to our members that in the new year, we will be offering opportunities for collectors interested in doing philatelic research, to visit the Greene Foundation's philatelic library. We are delighted to be able to offer members time in this facility, Canada's premier philatelic library, to do research for their collection write-ups or exhibits. This opportunity will be announced by your president as soon as the details are finalized.

Greetings for the Holiday Season

On behalf of all the members of the *GTAPA* Board of Directors, I extend to each and every reader, the very best of Christmas wishes to you and yours, at this festive time of year. And may the New Year hold for you, good health, happiness, and time to work on your stamps. ■

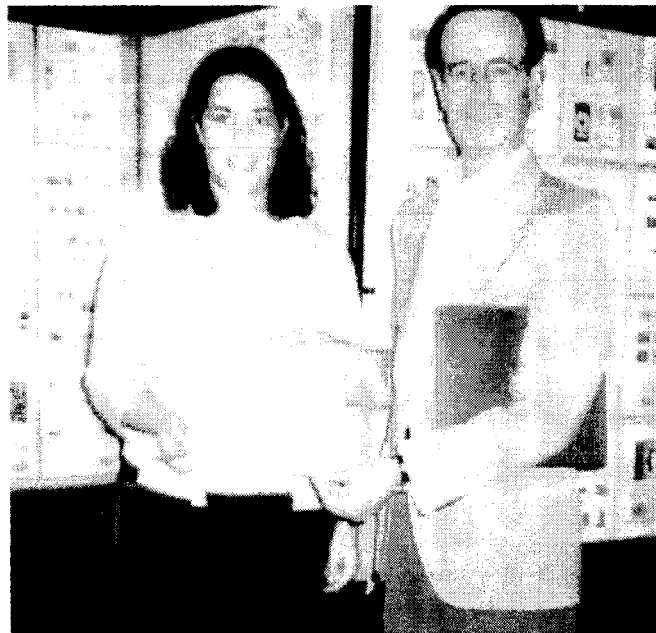
Yours in philately, Peter Butler



Season's
Greetings



STAMPEX 2003



Kristan Ollies receives a certificate and medallion from Frank Alusio for being a guest exhibitor at this year's show,



Honour the Sparkplugs in Your Club

Every club must have at least one – and we hope many more! – member who does for the club what sparkplugs do for engines. Your club may be lucky enough to have a whole set of plugs that really keep things chugging along, or maybe the club engine is sparked by random-firing plugs that flash when they're really needed – the annual show, the summer picnic, etc.

Isn't it the time to recognize these people who make the club a going concern? The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance will help by providing an official Certificate of Merit for Member Clubs to present to the honourees of their choice.

The certificate is printed on heavy vellum paper, and has the corporate seal, and spaces for the club to fill in the recipient's name, the reason for the award, and the Affiliate name. Signature lines are provided for the Affiliate president and secretary.

To request your Certificate of Merit, contact Peter Butler at 416-490-4666 or Email: pbutler@ilap.com.

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.

Sunday Dec 7th - Voice auction always a few bargains most lots are \$ 1.00 to \$ 10.00 and there is normally a selection of bulk lots including postal history lots

Tuesday Dec 17 - Th club has been in contact with the North Pole and Santa Claus (complete with his red suit) will make his annual appearance at the Bramalea Club - He somehow always manages to bring a philatelic gift to each person attending - you would think he was a stamp collector

The January meetings are generally used to prepare for our annual Club Show

This year we will have judged exhibits as well as a 8-10 dealer bourse

BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

STAMP SHOW 2004

Saturday February 7th, 2004
9:00am to 4:00pm

Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre
292 Conestoga Drive, Brampton
(School Cafeteria)

1 block west of Kennedy Rd., east of Hwy #10
North off Bovaird, South of Sandalwood

Numerous dealers,
Club circuit books/covers,
Silent auctions and Exhibits
Childrens table with free stamps for the kids
Door prizes
Food and Beverages available
Wheelchair accessible

Everyone welcome,
from interested parties to serious collectors



East Toronto Stamp Club

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, from September to May, at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Avenue Toronto.

For more information, contact Raymond Reakes at 416-425-1545.



Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society

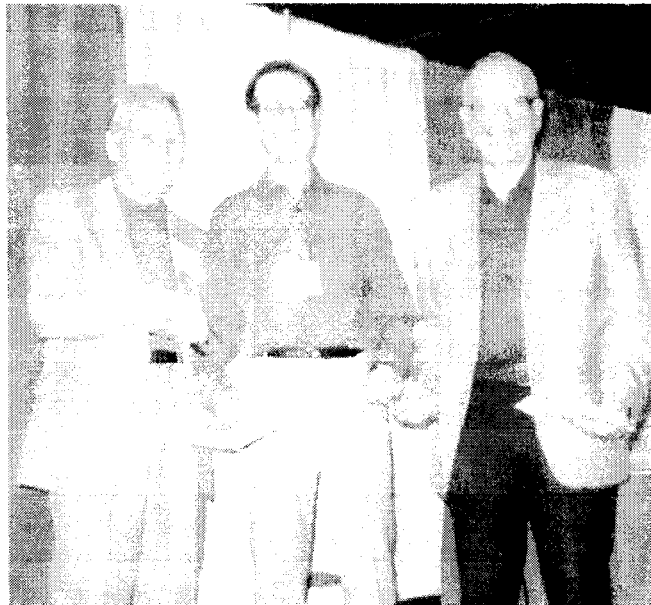
Meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:00pm of every month (Except in December, when it is the second Thursday) on the premises of Canaccord Capital Corporation, 320 Bay St. 13th floor.

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.

For more information, contact either Herb Kucera at 416-494-1428, Email: herbkucera@rogers.com or Josh Hodgson tel: 416-267-6749



STAMPEX 2003



Frank Alusio presenting certificates to jurors Alan Hanks (L) and Murray Heifetz (R)

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 8:00 p.m. 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 are provided.

Club sales circuit, two dozen dealers, silent auction, door prizes, snack bar refreshments, wheelchair access. Annual membership dues are \$15. Visitors are always welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will be held during the business meeting on January 8, 2004. A new executive will be elected for the 2004 year. The positions are : President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer, exhibition Chair, Newsletter Chair, Membership Chair, Sales Circuit Chair and Directors at large.

For more information about the bourse, contact Herb Letsche at 416-445-7720, fax 416-444-1273, or Email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca ; about the club and it's activities please 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 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm (July & Augusts 3rd Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West. (112 blocks west of Bathurst Street), Toronto.

Meetings feature convivial atmosphere, speakers, auctions, a sales circuit and a number of dealer members. Membership is only \$10 per year. Ample parking is free. Our annual show, NYPEX, is held in May and features 20 plus dealers, our sales circuit, raffles and hourly auctions.

NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance.

For more information, contact:

Art Halpert at 416-643-2020 (days) or 416-499-4406 (evenings / weekends); Email: ahalpert@sympatico.ca

North York Philatelic Society

NYPEX 2004

Saturday, May 15, 2004
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Ramada Plaza Hotel
1677 Wilson Avenue, Toronto

20+ dealers, exhibits, sales circuit

For additional information, contact
Art Halpert
weekdays: 416 643-2020;
evenings/weekends: 416 499-4406



The Scarborough Stamp Club

Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month during the school year, and are held at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, located behind Cedarbrae Collegiate, at 91 Eastpark Blvd. in Scarborough. (Eastpark is two blocks south of Lawrence and runs from Markham Road to Bellamy Rd.).

For more information, contact Peter Butler at 416-690-4666 or Email: pbutler@ilap.com

The final meeting of 2003 will be on December 16th and will be the traditional Christmas Party. Last year's party concluded with a special Bingo Quiz being distributed by

the president. (A bingo sheet is a page with 24 spaces each containing a quiz item. One is asked to fill in a response to each item with a stamp. As an example: a stamp issued the year you were born). Members were asked to take the quiz sheet home and complete it, as best they could, with stamps from their collection. At the January meeting they brought the completed sheet to the meeting, and a judge selected the best three pages of stamp answers and award prizes. The response was excellent and 15 members submitted pages to guest judge Frank Alusio. On December 16th a second bingo quiz will be distributed, and at the first meeting of the new-year (Jan. 20th) a guest judge will again, select the best submissions, and prizes will be given.

At the January 20th meeting we will also have guest speaker, Garfield Portch, from the *West Toronto Stamp Club*. His topic will be the *Small Queens of Canada, 1870 to 1897*. Guests are very welcome to attend and hear Garfield's entertaining and informative presentation.

Future meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month. Program highlights are listed below.

On Feb. 17th, there will be a slide show from the collection of slide presentations available from the *RPSC*, followed by a floor auction. On March 16th, there will be a club member presentation, topic to be announced and a floor auction. Programs for April 20th, May 18th and June 15th, will be announced in the next *PhilaJournal*.



STAMPEX 2003



GTAPA President, Peter Butler and John Sheffield, secretary of CSDA, congratulate each other on a successful exhibition and marketplace.

Higher Goals

One that desires to excel should endeavour in those things that are in themselves most excellent

-Epicetus

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.)

Membership is only \$15 per year, renewals are \$12. Ample free parking, Club's Newsletter, Regular and Invitational Auctions, Study Group Sessions, Dealers Tables, and Exhibitions.

For more information, contact Frank Alusio at 416-621-8232, or Email: falusio@sympatico.ca.

Programme:

- Dec. 02 Christmas Party
- Dec. 09 Fall Invitational Auctions
- Jan. 06 Board Meeting
- Jan. 13 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- Jan. 20 Study Group Session:
- Jan. 27 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- Feb. 10 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- Feb. 17 Study Group Session
- Feb. 24 Regular Meeting and Auctions

West Toronto Stamp Club

FALL 2003 INVITATIONAL AUCTION

Will take place on December 9, 2003
No lot is less than \$20.00 catalogue value

Viewing: 7:00-8:00 pm Bidding: 8:15 pm sharp
Ample free parking Free refreshments

Members of any clubs are welcomed

For more information
Contact Reay Cairns at 416-742-8107



CLIPPINGS & COMMENTARY - 3

excerpts from the philatelic press...

& comments from Peter Butler

IF YOU DON'T USE THEM, WHO WILL? (Part I)

I've been thinking lately of the frustration I continually experience with collectors who don't use commemorative stamps on their mail. I have been keeping a file of articles and editorial comments from the philatelic press, which try to get at the issue of the declining use of commemorative stamps. It's time to write about my strongly held conviction... Use commemorative stamps always. If we don't, who will?

Writing in the Canadian Philatelist, March/April 2001, Dale Spiers provides some insights into the use of commemorative stamps (pages 81 & 82), although no suggestions on how collectors could deal with such dilemmas, are put forth. I would like to counter the comments by offering my thoughts on how collectors can make a difference.

Commemoratives are often not easily available from branch post offices, as philatelists discover who buy them for ordinary mail. Postal clerks generally don't like the extra paperwork involved in ordering them, or suffer from a boss who can't be bothered with them. One Canadian postie, told of how he was disciplined by his supervisor for ordering a selection of commemoratives instead of the usual definitives.

A colleague says he thinks he is making a difference on behalf of stamp collectors. He nicely told his local postal clerk that if he no longer ordered commemorative stamps for his customer's use, he would no longer do business there. His purchases previously were for personal and business use. He mentioned that he would also make sure friends, relatives and neighbours would here of his stance. The post office now has commemorative stamps always in stock.

That commemorative stamps are not used by the majority of people on their mailings, is a truism in the philatelic hobby, as anyone who has access to bulk incoming mail knows... Further, there is considerable variability in the use of commemoratives, but roughly only about 10% of postage used by the general public is commemorative.

Then let's rededicate ourselves to the task of getting more folks to use them. This is not rocket science. I have received far too many letters from collectors this past year with definitive stamps on them. These were from fellow collectors, even presidents of stamp clubs, both of whom should know better. If you can't get commemoratives from a post office, the easiest way is to phone Antigonish (1-800-565-4362) and order some from the National Philatelic Centre. The stamps arrive in a few days and there is no postage charge and you can even use VISA. What could be more convenient? More about this aspect of the issue later.

Will the use of commemoratives decline in the future? This depends entirely on how post offices push stamp sales to the general public. Philatelists don't enter into it, since they are a small proportion of those who buy commemoratives.

Sorry, while we may well be in the minority, I'll have to take strong opposition to that one. I can do as much, or as little, as my conscience will bare (Thus this article). I can make sure I take every opportunity to encourage others to follow, or shrug my shoulders and say it's not my problem. Here is a clipping I cut from a Letters to the Editor column a few years ago. I didn't record the writer or the publication, but the person wrote,

"Rather than bemoaning the fact that there were too many stamps issued, not enough commemoratives and too many lousy cancellations, I produced a small slip of paper that I include in all my philatelic mail. It states: If more stamp collectors would use more collectable stamps on their outgoing mail, more collectors would have more collectable stamps in their collections."

What other strategies can we use to get more people not just collectors, to use commemoratives? Here are a few that I have collected from friends and readings:

A club member told me that he wrote to several stamp dealers and auction houses that if they persisted in using metered labels for philatelic mail, he would no longer do business with them. He received a few responses; the fact that putting stamps on mail takes too much time, dealers would have to hire more staff to do the extra work involved, metered mail allows better cost tracking and reduces theft, you have heard them all before. He simply put together a package of covers from dealers from whom he has received recent mail, with commemorative stamps and nice cancellations. Whatever the inherent problems, these dealers felt strongly about helping collectors. He also included a quotation: "You are either part of the problem or part of the solution."

My wife and I always volunteer to mail out flyers for our book club, newsletters for the stamp club, rehearsal announcements for our choir... you get the picture. We use commemoratives and request that the envelopes are saved for us, or for anyone else who collects. The response is always positive and many people have remarked on what a good idea it is to share our common history, geography, culture and patriotism by using, "the big, colorful stamps with nice pictures." We always use a fun-filled note about helping an ol' starving philatelist at Christmas time by requesting of everyone to save their envelopes for... you know who. From strategies like these, I receive dozens of commemoratives monthly, when meeting and visiting friends and family.

Finally, here is one I read in an article proposing a similar commitment to spreading the good word about commemoratives. I am in the process of designing a rubber stamp that will say, "PLEASE USE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS. LEARN MORE ABOUT CANADA AND HELP A STAMP COLLECTOR!"

What do you do to make sure commemoratives are the choice for stamps for your mailings? Send the idea to Clippings & Commentary, and we'll add them to the list for our readers to consider.

Next issue I will share the special activities of two fine gentlemen. They also are stamp collectors with a passion for the hobby, and a unique way of getting their colleagues and even non-collectors, to buy into a commitment to share commemorative stamps on their mail. Please don't forget... If you don't use them who will? ■



STAMP SHOWS & MARKETPLACES

December 14, Toronto, ON

Postcard Canada Fair

Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens

777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie St.

Hours: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Admission \$2.00

For information, call 1-905-637-1550

January 9, 10, 11 Toronto, ON

UNIPEX Toronto Stamp Show

Rameses Temple Shrine Club

3100 Keele St. (between Wilson & Sheppard at Maryport)

Hours: Friday 11:00am-6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm

Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm

For information, call 416-242-5900

January 10, Brantford, ON

2004 Show & Bourse

Saturday, January 10, Hours: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Woodman Community Centre, 401 Grey St. at James Ave.

Sponsored by the Brantford Stamp Club For more information, write: Box 25003, West Brant Postal Outlet,

105 Colborne St. West, Brantford, ON N3T 6K5

January 17, 18, St. Catharines, ON

CATEX Stamp Exhibition and Bourse

Saturday 17th, from 9:00am to 5:00pm and

Sunday 18th, from 10:00 to 5:00pm

Fairview Mall, Geneva St. St. Catharines

Sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club.

February 7, Brampton, ON

Bramalea Stamp Show

Saturday 7th, from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre

292 Conestoga Drive, Brampton (School Cafeteria)

1 block west of Kennedy Rd., east of Hwy #10

Sponsored by the Bramalea Stamp Club.

February 7, Burlington, ON

Burlpex 2004

Saturday 14th, from 9:30am to 4:30pm

Appleby Mall, corner of New St. & Appleby Line

Sponsored by the Burlington Stamp Club.

March 20, Woodstock, ON

OXPEX Stamp Exhibition

John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive.

Hours: 9:30am to 4:30pm

Sponsored by the Oxford Philatelic Society.

For information call Jim Watson at (519) 469-3433,

Email: jwatson@twp.bla-ble.on.ca



50 YEARS AGO

by Garfield Portch

Looking back, the summer of 1953 appears to have been pretty dull. The October issue of the Canadian Philatelist featured little news.

There is a 3/4 page article entitled "What's This National Stamp Week all About?" In part, the article states "The main attractions during a National Stamp Week should be Exhibitions and the public invited to attend. The C.S.D.A. has started the ball rolling and donated a sum of money to a fund which will be used for the

promoting of the hobby. An exhibition will be staged by the local clubs (in Toronto)." Was this the fore runner of the GTAPA / CSDA partnership that gave birth to STAMPEX 2003?

The article submitted by a member was "Canada – Booklets, Coils & Straight Edges" by E.C. Powell. Other articles include a brief discussion of the merits of collecting either classics or modern stamps; a short story about the Perot Postmasters-Bermuda 1848-61, and a brief article about the Caribou Issue of Newfoundland.

A feature of BNA Topics for June 1953 was the reprint of a Toronto Telegram article on the Bluenose and Captain Angus Walters. That item is reprinted in its entirety elsewhere in this issue of *PhilaJournal*.

November saw the first part of an in-depth report on the Coil Postage Stamps of Canada by Edward Whiting.

For fans of the Cents Issue of 1859, Henry Gates presented an article entitled *The Dies for the 1859 Issue* in December. The Postal History column by Jim Goodwin presented a fascinating list of all steamships that operated on Lake Ontario before 1846

Other world wide goings on in the third quarter of 1953 include:

- Insulin isolated by Banting & Best in Toronto
- Swanson sells its first "TV Dinner"
- Milton Berle's TV premiere ■



BLUENOSE - SHE RULED THE SEAS by Wesley Hicks

Captain Angus Walters unveiled a plaque yesterday down in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, to commemorate the feats of a schooner called the Bluenose. Memories like the wash of green water over a racing schooner's bow must have flooded over tough, fiery Angus Walters as he unveiled the plaque on Lunenburg's 200th anniversary.

For Captain Walters sailed the Bluenose in four International Fisherman's Trophy races and won them all and the Bluenose became a legend.

"Old Stormalong" she was dubbed. And men who knew the sea said she was the greatest topmast schooner the world ever knew.

"Old Weatherleg" she was nicknamed. And men who knew the sea said there was never a ship could sail to windward with her and when she was heeled over in a stiff breeze on a close reach or hard on in the wind, she sliced along with an almost dry deck and was a dancing ghost on the waves.

She was queen of the North Atlantic and a work horse to boot. The late King George V, on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee, gave her a new set of sails which had been

intended for his own yacht, Britannia.

No one but Angus Walters could have unveiled the plaque to her yesterday. He still has her wheel. And locked in a trunk in his attic are the original plans for the ship. Since the day she was launched, they have been locked away so no builder could ever copy her.

No shipbuilder could ever copy her bow which was built by rule-of-thumb. Men who sailed in her said, in the heaviest of seas, under racing sail, her bow wash was never more than a light spray and mermaids played around rainbows in it.

On April 15, 1921, she was given her first trial run and Captain Angus Walters, who was renowned for his skill and judgment and courage, was at the helm.

The Bluenose was built to be a freighter as well as a fisherman. She was built to spend long weeks on the Grand Banks, 36,000 square miles of the most exclusive cod fisheries in the world, and then carry her salted catch to Portugal, the West Indies or Brazil.

On October 22, and again on October 24, 1921, she raced the *Elsie* off Halifax. The *Elsie* was out of Gloucester and was built for speed, built to carry fresh fish to nearby ports. But the Bluenose beat her. She beat her by 11 minutes over the 30 mile course the first day and by 13 minutes the second day to win the International Fisherman's Trophy.

In 1922, she whipped the *Henry Ford* and *Gloucesterman*. On the outward leg of the triangular course, the two ships rode so close together in light airs that insults were exchanged in conversational tones. Then, as the ships rounded the buoy for the homeward leg, a stiff breeze blew up to windward. Then Captain Walters cupped his hands and addressed the *Henry Ford*.

"If you gentlemen got anything to say to us," he said, "say it now. From now on, it'll cost you postage." Then the Bluenose romped away from the *Henry Ford*.

She won the trophy in 1923 from the *Gloucesterman Columbia*. And in October 1931, after 10 years on the Grand Banks, innumerable storms, and four days on the rocks at Placentia, Newfoundland, she came back to whip the *Gertrude L. Thebaud*, out of Gloucester, for the supremacy of the North Atlantic. And she beat the *Thebaud* again in 1938 in the last of the Trophy Races.

In 1942, with two diesels bedded in her, she was sold to the West Indies Tea Company. And in January, 1946, a humble tramp ship, she fouled a reef near Isle Vache, off the coast of Haiti, and sunk.

"Old Weatherleg" they called her, and "Old Stormalong." And she sails under full canvas on the Canadian 50 cent stamp which philatelists have called the most beautiful in the world. And she sails under full canvas on the back of Canada's ten cent piece, which she shares with a lovely young queen.



And it was most fitting that Captain Angus Walters unveiled a plaque to her memory yesterday. For he spoke her epitaph back in 1946 when he was told she had sunk off Haiti in the night. "She belonged to all Canada," he said. ■

The STAMPEX '03 Philatelic Exhibition was open to exhibitors who are members of the Clubs affiliated with the GTAPA. The Prospectus stated that each Club was eligible to enter three One-frame (16-pages) philatelic exhibits by conforming to established rules. Exhibits awarded first, second and third in their respective intra-club competition, were accepted in the competitive class.

Unlike the traditional competition, which exhibitors participate on individual basis, STAMPEX '03 focused on a team effort (Club) participation. The Club Challenge Award (Trophy designed and created exclusively for STAMPEX '03) was at stake.

The Exhibits were evaluated by Alan Hanks (N) and Murray Heifetz (I), both RPSC accredited jurors. Each exhibitor, in addition to the scoring sheet, received a certificate of participation and a medallion struck exclusively for STAMPEX '03.

The Club Challenge Award was won by the North Toronto Stamp Club: whose members Doug Irwin, Don Welsh and John Wilson, combined the highest score. Here are the results:

GOLD

- | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------------|
| • British Guiana's Postal Connections by Sea | John Wilson, | North Toronto Stamp Club |
| • Coil Issues of Canada's Admiral Series | Art Halpert | North York Philatelic Society |
| • The Unification of Italy | Frank Alusio | West Toronto Stamp Club |

VERMEIL

- | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| • Fiji – The Postal History of Lautoka | Don Welsh | North Toronto Stamp Club |
| • Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls 1800-1900 | Doug Irwin | North Toronto Stamp Club |
| • Hong Kong – Major Branch Post Offices 1898 – 1953 | Ingo Nessel | Bramalea Stamp Club |
| • Toronto Oval Duplex Cancellations | Herb McNaught | North York Philatelic Society |
| • Canada Express Labels (Special Delivery) | Josh Hodgson | Scarborough Stamp Club |

SILVER-BRONZE

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| • Selected Postal Markings of 19th Century Canada | Garfield Portch | West Toronto Stamp Club |
| • Belgium Precancel Stamps | Raymond Reakes | East Toronto Stamp Club |
| • The Wavy Line-Oval Numerals of Denmark and Their Usages | Herb Kucera | Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society |

BRONZE

- | | | |
|--|------------------|--|
| • Trinidad – Half Penny Rate | Bob Thorne | Bramalea Stamp Club |
| • Cancellations on the Three Cent Small Queen | Joe Janthur | Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society |
| • The Town Postmarks on the First Issue of Austria 1850-1858 | Paul Catling | Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society |
| • The Independent Republic of Finland from 1917 to 1950 | Aulis Narhi | West Toronto Stamp Club |
| • Polish Postal History – A Sampling of Auxiliary Markings | Jerry Piotrowski | Bramalea Stamp Club |

CERTIFICATE

- | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------------|
| • King of the Night | Karl Wysotski | Scarborough Stamp Club |
| • New Zealand Stamps Back Printed with Advertisement | Percy Bourne | Scarborough Stamp Club |

SPECIAL PRIZES

Postal History Society of Canada: Ribbon and Certificate :for Best Canadian Postal History exhibit

- | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------------|
| • Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls 1800-1900 | Doug Irwin | North Toronto Stamp Club |
|--|------------|--------------------------|

American Association Philatelic Exhibitors: Pin: to recognize the exhibitor to "go that extra mile" and strive to attain a Gold the next time around.

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| • Hong Kong – Major Branch Post Offices 1898 – 1953 | Ingo Nessel | Bramalea Stamp Club |
|---|-------------|---------------------|

Canadian Stamp News: a 6-month Subscription: to exhibitors who show excellent writing skills in their exhibit story

- | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| • The Unification of Italy | Frank Alusio | West Toronto Stamp Club |
| • Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls 1800-1900 | Doug Irwin | North Toronto Stamp Club |

Other exhibitors who participated in non-competitive class were:

JUNIOR

Seven young students in grade 3-6: stamp collectors Ryan Baker, Eric Evanchuk, Ben Hare, Vedrana Martincevic, Catherine Silins, Matthew Silins and Ben Soicher from the Hopewell, Mutchmor and Woodroffe Public School's Stamp Clubs, Ottawa, made a contribution to STAMPEX by showing their very basic stamp arrangements on pages.

FIRST-TIME EXHIBITS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| • Deficient Postage | Oddity | Peter Butler/Garfield Portch |
| • Victoria and the Penny Black | Display Division | "Eftea" |
| • Colorano Covers | Illustrated Covers | Gord Payne |
| • Philatelic Fun | Oddity | Peter Butler/Garfield Portch |
| • 1/2 cent Small Queen | Traditional | Garfield Portch |

COURT OF HONOUR

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II | Kristen Ollies |
| • Rhodesia British South Africa Co. | Alan Hanks |

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THE POSTILLION

by Effeia



Postmarks in Europe

Earliest examples of a postmark in Europe consist of injunctions to the postal officials not to delay state correspondence. A formula used in Venice by the early 14th century was the Latin "*Cito, citissime, volantissime*" (quickly, very quickly, very fleetingly). By the 16th century the French were endorsing their mail "*en diligence*" (with speed and care), and it is from this endorsement that French mail-coaches came to be known as diligences. In Tudor England a common expression on the covers of letters was "*Haste, haste, for life, post haste*" and this, in turn, has given the language an expression meaning with all speed.

Many of the more important state letters bore the signatures of the respective postmasters through whose hands they passed en route, together with the times of arrival and departure. Such express letters are of considerable interest to postal historians for the light they shed on medieval mail routes and the time it took to cover these routes.

Only when the state services were thrown open to the general public did a system of manuscript marking come in to use to denote the amount of postage due from the recipient. Even after the introduction of handstruck postmarks, charges were often indicated in manuscript-black ink for postage due and red ink or crayon for prepaid letters. ■

Bill McCann



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