

# 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

## “What have you done for me lately?”

There isn't a month goes by that I don't think about our recent initiatives and ask myself, do they focus on our aims and objectives. Do they forward the cause to enhance the art of philately? If you read about our work in the press and, for that matter our own *PhilaJournal*, there seems to be a preoccupation with STAMPEX, spreading the word about our efforts to revive it and the success the Alliance has generated in making it a great Show.

While the Board and its executive do spend a lot of time on this agenda, be assured that more time is spent on creating Alliance initiatives that focus on service, support and resource development for our member clubs. So what have we done lately to forward our goals as stated in the constitution? I would like to share with you, four such initiatives about which the Board is very excited:

- Several weeks ago we approached Harry Sutherland, chairman of the V. G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, to request the opportunity to have members of the Alliance clubs use the philatelic library of the Foundation. Most readers will not have had the opportunity to even visit Canada's finest philatelic library, let alone use it to do research into the history of Canada's postal system or to simply learn more about early Canadian stamps. An invitation to use the library was immediately given to the Alliance. We agreed to organize its usage and provide the necessary supervision that such a unique and valuable facility would require. We are now able to announce the results of our discussions at the Board, to the members of our seven clubs.

Initially, our members will be able to visit the library on the nights that the Board meets in the same offices. That would be the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. John Laraway, an alternate Board member from the North Toronto Stamp Club and treasurer at West Toronto, has agreed to be our librarian, and will assist and supervise the member's use of the library resources. Arrangements can also be made through your club president, if any of our clubs wish to visit the library and have someone present a brief overview of the collection of resources available for you to use. You may know that the Foundation provides collectors with an expertizing service for the validation of Canadian philatelic and postal history items. Why not plan an evening at the Foundation to find out more about this specialized program. Depending on the response to this invitation, the hours of Alliance usage could be extended. We hope that in the months ahead, member clubs will be interested in visiting the library. You have a golden opportunity to use a premier philatelic resource that very few Canadian collectors are able to use first hand. We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity.

- As many members are aware the *Grand River Valley Philatelic Association* has, for 10 years now, offered their clubs an opportunity to come together once a year, to share their sales circuit books.

(continue on page 4)



## Spring TORONTO Show Postage Stamp Marketplace

April 16-18, 2004 \*Queen Elizabeth Building \* Exhibition Place

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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](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com)

or

Frank Alusio  
416-621-8232  
Email: [falusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:falusio@sympatico.ca)

• • •

The Alliance meets monthly  
on the fourth Wednesday  
at the  
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In the  
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# 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](mailto: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

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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](mailto: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	\$40.00
1/4 page	\$20.00	\$80.00
1/2 page	\$40.00	\$150.00
Full page (8.5x11)	\$80.00	\$300.00

Your feedback 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

Do you still believe that stamp collecting is declining? Or do you think that all is dormant? Rejoice! There is something happening right before your eyes.

I've always hoped and prayed that all the exponents of the philatelic community: organized philately, the trade sector, the media, and collectors in Canada would merge as a united body to promote our hobby in a serious and effective way. Couple of years ago I was even quoted in CSN of this dream.

Well, my dear readers, miracles do happen! The Stakeholders in Philately (SIP), a group created in May 2003, in Hanover, ON, during Royal 2003, met for the first time for the purpose of forming such a body in a very determined endeavour.

Spear headed by Paul Winkler, publisher of Canadian Stamp News, the committee, to date, has met four times since that historical date. At last meeting held in Toronto on January 31, 2004 and hosted by GTAPA at the V.G. Green Research Foundation, it solidified its role and finalized its mission. Not only the Group worked out some action plans, but has also started to put them in motion. A web site for SIP is on-line and can be accessed at [www.canadianstampnews.ca/SIP](http://www.canadianstampnews.ca/SIP)

SIP, composed of representatives of Canada Post Corporation, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, The Canadian Stamp Dealers Association, The Canadian Stamp News, The Postal History Society of Canada, The British North America Philatelic Society, The Grand River Valley Philatelic Association, and The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance, will meet six times a year including in the spring at the annual Royal Convention and Exhibition and in the fall at the annual STAMPEX in Toronto.

An invitation is being extended to representatives of Eastern and Western Canada as well as the Quebec regions to join SIP.

Stay tuned, you'll hear more about SIP!

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll read about one of the initiatives being undertaken by SIP (page 7) where the promotion of stamp collecting will be focused at the upcoming **50Plus Lifestyle Show** held Toronto at the end of April 2004; A proposal put forth by yours truly on the formation of a **Thematic Study Group** at the service of the membership of the affiliate Clubs of GTAPA (page 8); and pay particular attention to the article "What have you done for me lately?" on the front page; and other useful tidbits. Enjoy the reading!

*Frank Alusio*



Contributors:

Frank Alusio, Dorothy Attwells, Peter Butler, Efeea, Doug Irwin, Art Halpert, Herb Kucera, Garfield Portch, Bob Thorne.

## In this issue

	page
"What have you done for me lately?"	1
Club Members' Activities	4
STAMPEX+2004	7
Collecting	8
Clippings and Commentary-4	8
Exhibiting	9
50 Years Ago	10
Stamp Shows and Marketplaces	10

## "What have you done for me lately?"

...(continued from front page)

Every October, *Club Fair* is held in one of their club's meeting places and the annual get-together often has 14 or more clubs attend with over 500 circuit books. This year, the Alliance has been invited to join in the day's program. Any GTAPA club that has a sales circuit program is invited to bring along their books. All clubs are invited to take part. There will also be an auction, lucky draws and refreshments. Elsewhere in the *PhilaJournal* there is a publicity announcement for this year's Club Fair. We anticipate many GTAPA club members will attend and support this great philatelic event. The Alliance extends a sincere vote of thanks to *GRVPA* for their invitation.

- At the last Board meeting, Frank Alusio, president of the West Toronto Stamp Club, brought forward a motion requesting that the Alliance support a new venture. Frank's proposal is for a Thematic Study Group. Elsewhere in the *PhilaJournal*, he outlines the rationale for his proposal and suggests how the group might, "get off the ground." If you are interested, do follow his directions to let us know. If you have some suggestions to make, get in touch with Frank. He is listening, and open to your thoughts as to how this initiative might proceed.
- Over the past few months, some of the executive members have been visiting other clubs in the GTA, to spread the good news about the GTAPA. Obviously, we would like more clubs to join our organization. We have been very well received at these meetings and from the many questions and comments received we know we have good support. For valid reasons however, we have not gained new members to the Alliance, this year. I believe that the Board needs to review the categories of membership in the Alliance, and to consider new strategies to extend our family of stamp clubs. In the next issue of *PhilaJournal*, we will share with our readers, the plans for such a process. Stay tuned!

So that is what we have been doing for you lately! I suppose we have all asked the question at the top of this message, either quietly to ourselves or out loud to anyone who is listening. It's a glib query; one that asks those in a position to know, to justify their existence and explain why they deserve support. I believe all the club reps on the GTAPA deserve your continuing support. They work hard to make the programs happen. The above initiatives attest to that fact. We might ask of you... not what your organization can do for you, but what you can do for your organization. Sounds like something memorable JFK once said. ■

Enjoy your stamps!

Peter Butler  
President

## 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).

This year's show (held on February 7) is now history and it is time to thank those who made the show a success. First thank you to all the people who attended the show and made the club's effort worthwhile.

I was especially pleased with the youth table. It was crowded from the start and we almost had to extend the show to allow the kids to play stamps.

Could you image what the show would be like without Duncan Barber, Ingo Nessel and Ron Feero. These guys worked behind the scene before the show date. Duncan lined up the Judges and the exhibitors. Ron was the dealer contact lining up the ten dealers for the show. Ingo booked the hall made the arrangements for the set up as well as looking after the financial aspects of the show. To these three we owe our gratitude.

On show day many club members helped in the set up and take down Ben Prins, Don Garlick, Duncan and Karen Barber as well as Gerry Heuvingh and Jerry Piotrowski. Ron Walker and Paul Nicholls looked after the auction table and announcements. As usual Bill Dean was at the door greeting the public and directing the youth area. And thanks to the snack bar girls Freda Brockbank and Marion Dawson along with new member Suzanne. To Geoff Green, Steve Johnson and others who ran errand to the store and around the building, thanks.

Avery special thanks goes to our circuit book manager and his crew. Frank Alusio, on behalf of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance presented Laurie Despres with the first GTAPA *Certificate of Appreciation* for his service as sales circuit manager.

Also thank you to all the exhibitors Ken Magee of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association, Stratford Club for his two exhibits "Greenland" and "Palestine." Karen Barber for her First Issue of Czechoslovakia and the "Glitches"; Jerry Piotroski's "Poland" and Gerry Heuvingh's "Zeppelin" material were very well done. Doug Filby's "Airmail Labels" exhibit was a great first effort. With all these all I could fit in was a single frame of "Trinidad." Special thanks go to the Judges Frank Alusio, Warren Dickson and apprentice Rodney Paige for their time and comments.

### Awards

Gold & Best in Show	Palestine
Gold	Czechoslovakia
Gold	Greenland
Gold	Poland
Gold	Glitches
Bronze	Trinidad
Not judged	Air Mail Labels
Not judged	Zeppelin
(most popular as selected by the public)	
All in all a very good day was had by all. ■	

## East Toronto Stamp Club

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, from September to May, at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, Cedarvale Avenue Toronto. After a short business meeting, there usually is a presentation by Club members. Refreshments are always available.

On February 4, Ray Reakes gave a talk on his collection "World War I and II" and on the "Soldier Stamps of Switzerland." On February 18, Jim Hines presented one of his favourite "British Colonies." After undergoing major heart surgery, Jim is back in action. Welcome friend and stay healthy!

Looking ahead in the upcoming months, Steve Haddock will be giving a talk on March 4, on a surprised subject. On March 18, Doug Cockburn will also be making a presentation on a surprised topic.

Regarding the continuation of future meetings, a proposal was presented to the members so that they will be able to continue on with the Club for the future. It was agreed it is well worth it to carry on. The proposal will be enlarged upon at a later meeting.

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, in Toronto.

The new Board of Directors was elected recently and the following are the results:

President	Herb Kucera
Vice-President	Ingo Nessel
Secretary	Don Peach
Treasurer	Josh Hodgson
Program Director	Jean-Pierre Gadoury
Club Historian	Richard Bruton (pro tem)
Auditor	John Titterton

The GTAPA representatives are Joe Janthur and Richard Bruton.

On the evening of May 20, the club will stage its annual exhibition. The participation is restricted to its members only ■

## North Toronto Stamp Club

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from September to June (except December) starting 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.

The Club's circuit books are available to members and visitors, and some of the members who are dealers provide material for purchase as well. A brief business meeting is followed by a speaker's presentation, a panel discussion, or a club auction. No admission charge.

Visitors are always welcome. Coffee and cookies are served.

## Calendar of Upcoming Meetings

### March 11

- **John Wilson** will present **British Guiana By Sea**, an illustrated 30 minute talk starting at 8 PM
- Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM
- Table auction
- Three to five club dealers

### March 20-21

- **61st Annual Exhibition**, Edward Gardens Centre, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Competitive exhibits
- Club sales circuit
- 20 dealers

### March 25

- **Sam Chiu** will speak on **The Last Chinese Empire: Hung Hsin**, an illustrated 30 minute talk starting at 8:00 pm
- Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM
- Table auction
- Three to five club dealers

### April 8

- Guest speaker yet to be determined, 30 minute talk starting at 8 PM
- Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM
- Table auction
- Three to five club dealers

### April 22

- A talk by the Grand Award winner from the club's 61st annual exhibition
- Judges critique
- Awards presentation
- Club sales circuit opening about 6:30 PM
- Table auction
- Three to five club dealers ■

## 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, (1 1/2 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](mailto: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

### Scarborough Stamp Club...

...starts '04 with a great meeting!

Seldom has the club had such a busy and enjoyable evening as our first meeting of the new year. Over 50 people attended with all seats at the circuit tables filled from 6:30 on. The program consisted of a guest speaker and the judging of the Philatelic Bingo activity that was handed out at the Christmas Party in December. Members were asked to complete the Bingo sheet to the best of their ability, and bring it to this meeting for friendly judging. Like a Bingo card, (only 8 1/2 X 11) there are 25 spaces with a short directive in each space. A stamp satisfying the directive, is hinged into place. (examples: a perfin, a stamp issued the year you were born, a Prexie stamp, your favourite commemorative. from '03). Some easy, others challenging, the objective is to encourage philatelic research, to ask questions and to share knowledge. (\*)

This year's winners were presented with special prizes: all "exhibitors" were given a gift recognizing their involvement in the program. Art Treloar took the first place prize with 24 1/2 points out of a possible 25. Josh Hodgson was close behind with 23 1/2 points as were Dave Ashley and Don Beaumont with 23. Elaine Skinner, Arthur Wilkinson, Matthew Browett and Aideen Bray (two of our youth members) were "honourable mentions." Congratulations were extended to all participants.

Next on the agenda was a presentation on *Canada's Small Queens*, by Garfield Portch, a member of the West Toronto Stamp Club and an exhibitor at last year's *British North America Philatelic Society's* convention and exhibition. It was clear to all that Garfield's knowledge of this classic issue is extensive and he challenged us all to apply the concepts he presented to any definitive issue of any country. He often reminded us that while many items he seeks now to extend his collection, are expensive, the fun is in the initial stages of reading a lot and spending little on one's collection. For over an hour he kept the members engaged in the topic. The enthusi-

astic applause at the end, told the whole story of the member's appreciation and thanks for a wonderful presentation. ■

(\*) Anyone wishing copies of the SSC's Philatelic Bingo sheets, (two to date) should e-mail Peter Butler or ask your president to take your request to the next GTAPA meeting.

Please mark on your calendar  
the date for this year's annual

## SCARPEX'04 Exhibition and Bourse (hosted by the Scarborough Stamp Club)

Saturday, May 8 \* 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cedarbrook Community Centre, Scarborough.

20 dealers and exhibits  
club sales table and circuit books  
free parking and admission  
prizes and refreshments

for further information

Peter Butler 416-690-4666 or [pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com)

### 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 e-mail: [alusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:alusio@sympatico.ca).

### Programme:

- Mar. 09 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- Mar. 16 Study Group Session  
Show and Tell
- Mar. 23 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- Apr. 13 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- Apr. 20 Study Group Session  
Speaker and Topic to be announced
- Apr. 27 Spring Invitational Auctions
- May. 04 Board of Directors Meeting
- May. 11 Regular Meeting and Auctions
- May. 18 The Allen Cup competition  
Open to Club members showing a collection  
(any size) of their choice. No rules are applied  
as long as the mounted material is philatelic.
- May. 25 Regular Meeting and Auctions

An invitation to attend the  
**SPRING 2004 INVITATIONAL AUCTION**

Hosted by the West Toronto Stamp Club

Will take place on April 20, 2004  
 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

STAMPEX\*2004  
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 Etobicoke ON, M9A 1B5

Tel: 416-621-8232 or e-mail: [falusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:falusio@sympatico.ca)

**IN BRIEF**

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**Canada Post Reaps Awards**

Canadians can take pride in the fact that their postage stamps are recognized internationally. Three issues have been awarded top honours at international stamp design contests.



The *Continental Cup* for the most beautiful stamp in America, was awarded to the Lunar New Year stamp (Year of the Horse) issued on January 3, 2002. In addition to the Continental Cup, the stamp was also named the 3rd place winner in the *World's*

*Most Beautiful Stamp* category. Namibia took the top honours followed by Singapore, Canada, Argentina and Luxembourg.

**STAMPEX\*2004**

by Frank Alusio

The STAMPEX\*2004 Committee (Frank Alusio, Chair, Peter Butler and Garfield Portch, Co-chairs) is now in place and running. Members of the Board were asked to volunteer in taking up the sub-functions in the Liaison, Exhibition and Finance responsibility areas. The exhibitors Prospectus and Entry Form are now available.

**Who is eligible to exhibit ?**

In order to accommodate requests received from individual stamp collectors, whether they are seasoned philatelists or novices, and to meet public demand for more exhibits, STAMPEX\*2004 will consider applications received from the following:

**1 Competitive Exhibits**

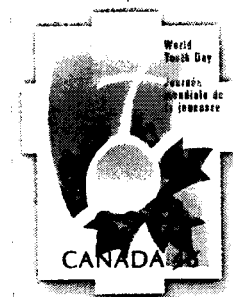
- a) Adults  
 One-frame or multi-frame (open to all stamp collectors who are members of a club within GTA)
- b) GTAPA Clubs  
 Top three one-frame exhibits from club competitions

**2 Non-competitive Exhibits**

- a) Adults (including novices)  
 One-frame or multi-frame (open to all stamp collectors who are members of a club within GTA)
- b) CSDA Stamp Dealers  
 One-frame or multi-frame
- c) Youth/Junior  
 1-15 pages, one-frame, or multi-frame (open to all)

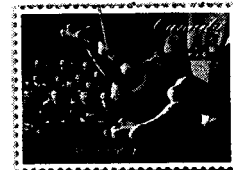
**3 Exhibits by Invitation**

- a) Individuals, b) Youth/Junior, c) Dealers, d) Jurors  
 Anyone who is interested in exhibiting may request a copy of the Prospectus and Entry Form from:



The 2002 St. Gabriel International Award, named after the saint nicknamed "the lord's postman", for *Best Religious Stamp* has been awarded to the World Youth Day stamp issued on July 23, 2002. The award, a sterling silver plaque depicting the Annunciation by sculptor Enrico Manfrini, is given to

postal authorities for stamp issues of intrinsic artistic value and great religious significance. For the first time ever, the 2002 award is being shared by two countries, Canada and Italy. The award was established in 1969 by the World Union of St. Gabriel, a worldwide association of collectors of religion on stamps.



Third place honours in the 2003 Yehudi Menuhin Trophy competition were awarded to Canada Post's stamp honouring the 100th anniversary of the Orchestre symphonique de

Québec, Canada's oldest active symphony orchestra. The stamp issued on November 7, 2002, shared the honour with a Finnish issue. First and second place honours were awarded to Brazil and Spain, respectively. The award is named in memory of Yehudi Menuhin, world famous violinist and conductor, who was Patron of the Philatelic Music Circle for 30 years. ■

**Stakeholders in Philately (SIP)**

Hosted by the GTAPA, the 4th SIP meeting took place on January 31, 2004 at 10 Summerhill, Toronto. The Group representing CPC, RPSC, CSDA, CSN, PHSC,

BNAPS, GRVPA, GTAPA, and soon to be invited regional representatives from the East, Quebec and West, has made a giant progress in promoting philately in Canada. The official committee structure is now in place who agreed on the mission "To ensure the health and well being of the hobby with emphasis on promotion, growth and development" and four primary goals:

- A To align all the stakeholders into an effective unit that works to achieve the mission.
- B To reach out to latent collectors who now have more time to pursue the hobby.
- C To introduce stamp collecting to new people.
- D To increase participation in clubs from collectors not currently active.

Based on these parameters, there are a number of projects underway. One of which is the SIP participation at the upcoming **Forever Young Show** to be held on April 30 and May 1, 2004 at the International Centre in Mississauga. There will be a staffed booth, philatelic displays and seminars on basic collecting, and a CPC autograph session. Don't miss it! It will be a great opportunity to convey and promote stamp collecting and ...we may attract some latent and future collectors to the hobby.

## COLLECTING

by Frank Alusio

### **A Petition to Club members on Forming a Study Group**

**B**eing in contact with many philatelists in the GTA I noted, for quite some time, that there is a sizable number of them who collect stamp by a subject or a theme. Upon reflecting on the possibility of forming a specialized group(s) within the GTAPA organization, here is a proposal for consideration.

Since there are a number of us in this same boat, why don't we all dip our paddle in the common pool and see how we can aid each other in our secret ambition of become a specialized collector, and later an exhibitor, see how we can coordinate our individual, probing efforts into a smooth team union to put the boat on an even keel and heading in the right direction.

#### **Thematic Group (later we may have others)**

The Group will stem out of GTAPA with the intend of bringing together the members belonging to the affiliate Clubs who have a mutual area of specialization or related areas, with the purpose of:

- promote among the members of the Group and among the members of GTAPA in general, the exchange of experiences, information and material of themes expertise;
- support the initiatives of GTAPA, in particular those dedicated specifically to the single group, to provide a service to member clubs.

I feel that by forming such group (s) it will motivate the collector to participate in a forum knowing that he/she

will exchange ideas and information with more seasoned collectors who have already acquired some experience in the field.

The Thematic Group could be constituted:

- by request of at least 10 members;
- by the Executive of GTAPA if there are at least 10 members who might be interested.

If you are interested in forming this group give me a call at 416-621-8232 or e-mail [falusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:falusio@sympatico.ca). You may discover just what you've always desired. ■

## CLIPPINGS & COMMENTARY – 4

*No clippings this time.....just commentary from Peter Butler*

**I**n my last column, I closed with the promise that I would share with you the activities of two fine gentlemen, in my next C&C. The gentlemen's names are Garfield Portch and Jim Measures, and their stories of how they use commemorative stamps on all their outgoing mail is worthy of our emulation. Both of them are avid collectors, both of them ask there collector friends and colleagues, family members a neighbours, to always buy commemoratives, and both of them are unabashed Canadians, proud of their country and its history and culture. There is no better way to share their pride than to use large stamps on all their mail, not just to philatelists.

Garfield Portch by day, is an insurance broker. *PhilaJournal* readers know him as an Alliance Board member from the West Toronto club, who is responsible for the fine Club Challenge Award trophy that is awarded to the top club in the exhibitor's competition at *Stampex*. I know him as a great advocate for the hobby, whose infectious enthusiastic for everything philatelic is catching. He is also a valued friend and a collecting mentor to me.

Every day at the office, Garfield insists on doing the mail. He checks for good cancellations, unusual postal system markings and, of course, commemoratives. He also takes on the job of putting large stamps on most of the outgoing mail. Over the years, he had trained many of his clients. He uses commemoratives and so do they. For those who are philatelists, and there are a considerable number, he takes the envelopes to the post office personally and is allowed by the postal clerk, to cancel the stamps with a unique Etobicoke hand cancel. Garfield always has a shoebox full of covers to show any interested callers at the office, and he always has an envelope full of commemoratives ready to do the day's mail. His stories of the special covers that he has received from clients and sent to them in return, are heart-warming for they come from a man who truly loves his hobby, the people he shares it with, and the telling of the tales. Garfield Portch is the very best ambassador the hobby could have.

Jim Measures will be a name that very few in our organization will recognize. He is an outsider to the Alliance, but very much an insider for his practices as a



stamp collector and a club member. I have only spoken with him briefly on a few occasions, all around the ROYAL\*2003\*ROYALE show in Hanover. Plans were, at the national show last May, to have resource people from the United States who run Stamp Camp programs at most major shows across the USA, to come to Hanover to offer the same program for the youth of Hanover. You will recall the SARS scare well before the show, but the US authorities, at the last minute decided that their postal service employees, the ones to run the Stamp Camp, could not cross the border. The *Saugeen Stamp Club*, organizers of the show, was left in the lurch. Jim stepped up, agreed to take over the program, and created a great stamp camp program of his own. Few people knew of the switch in plans. Those who did, praised Jim's great work with the children. That tells a bundle of the kind of person Jim Measures is. Now for the work he does with his club and the reason why I was so pleased to make his acquaintance.

Jim is the editor of the Saugeen stamp Club's newsletter and he publishes it monthly. The newsletter is mailed out to all 55 members, always with the latest commemorative stamp. But that is not all. The post office from which he mails the newsletter is different each time. The post office must have a fancy or pictorial hand cancellation, and Jim literally goes to the ends of the earth to find the right post offices. To date, he has used post offices in 8 states south of the border, all Canadian provinces and territories and 12 other countries. To begin the new season last September, he sent off a bundle of newsletters to the oldest post office in the world, in Scotland. He had corresponded with the postmaster requesting the service and the postmaster was only too pleased to oblige. Jim obviously wears his love of philately on his sleeve for all to see. There is no more pleasure for him than serving his stamp collecting colleagues and friends, and that is why I wanted to share his story with our readers.



"If you have any envelopes in your truck, would you save the stamp for me?"

Let us all take heart from the practices of these two gentlemen of philately. Remember your responsibilities as a stamp collector. Use commemoratives always. Try as often as possible to create good postal covers. If you don't, who will? Just think. The cover you send tomorrow might just end up in a collector's exhibit 100 years from now, in a show called *Marsex 2104*, the very first philatelic show on the newly colonized planet. ■

Belated Happy New Year!

Enjoy your hobby!



## EXHIBITING

by Frank Alusio

### Why Exhibit? Why Not!

Why on earth would you want to do that?" seemed to be the universal cry of my stamp buddies when, back in the '70s, I announced my intentions of exhibiting one of my collections. I could not come up with a good answer to that question all those years ago, but I can now - because it is fun. In fact, it is so much fun that I keep expecting the government to make it illegal!

We exhibitors, I suppose, become tiresome in our enthusiasm for this "sport", but it is so enjoyable and enriching that we want everyone to experience it. Here are some reasons why.

### Exhibiting is creative

I will not deny hinging stamps on pre-printed album pages is fun, but it is not terribly creative. Mounting stamps on pages you designed in a layout you composed to tell a story you wrote is considerably more satisfying. It is a great way to exercise your creativity - you get to be the master of your own little philatelic universe.

### Exhibiting builds skills

Anyone who has put together an exhibit has learned organizational skills. In searching for pleasing arrangements of material on the pages, you develop basic design and layout techniques. By writing the description for each page in an exhibit, you sharpen writing and editing skills. In verifying facts, you hone research skills. Some exhibitors now using personal computers to prepare exhibits have become crackerjack hacks. All of these skills come almost effortlessly to you as you become more involved with exhibit-making.

### Exhibiting helps build your collection

The exhibiting community as a whole is a most helpful group of people. When you show your treasures a few times, others begin to know what you collect. Your opportunities to acquire new material are multiplied as they, too, help look for items you need. Additionally, experienced exhibitors willingly share knowledge and advice with beginners.

### Exhibiting makes you a better collector

You learn more about our wonderful hobby in your quest to build the best exhibit you can. You master the

techniques of selecting the best material possible, getting more "bang for your buck". You discover how to differentiate between genuine and fake. You unearth forgotten or unknown facts about stamps and postal history. The best part of all is that you share all this with people who appreciate it the most.

#### Exhibiting is a great way to give something back to the hobby

Exhibiting is an outlet for every stamp collector to become a teacher. This is your chance to explain visually complicated stamps and themes to other collectors. Whether you share your knowledge of a complex subject or simply your joy in what you collect, you are returning some of the pleasure you have gained from your involvement with philately.

#### Exhibiting affords opportunity for social interaction

Exhibitors are friendly folks. As a new exhibitor, you bump into fellow exhibitors at shows, critiques, and award banquets. In no time at all, you find you have developed lasting friendships. It is a great way to meet folks from all walks of life. Do not be misled by malcontents who cynically shriek that exhibiting is an "old-boy network". It is not true. Try it. You will be welcomed to the fold with open arms.

Have I convinced you? Why not begin by putting together your own exhibit? Start small. Enter your local show with a One-frame of your favourite material. Then, after you have given it your best shot and gained all the aforementioned benefits, should you happen to be fortunate to win an award, consider that icing on the cake.



## 50 YEARS AGO

by Garfield Portch

January 1954 was the first of the new monthly issue of the Canadian Philatelist. The lead article by F. Walker dealt with Canadian Coil Stamps with Faulty Alignment.

A full membership list was published and included a strong representation from the Toronto area including such names as Fred Jarrett, Les Davenport, Everett Drake, Harold Gosney, Murray Heifetz, Richard Lamb, Michael Madesker, Wm. Maresch, Harry Martin Jr, Douglas Patrick, Max Rosenthal, Jim Sissons, George Wegg, and many others.

In February, Hans Reiche announced the start of a new edition of Constant Plate Varieties.

The March issue featured an item by Robert Lyman in which he lamented the fact that very few Canadian collectors show an interest beyond the stamps of British North America. His argument was continued by Tom Morgan who wrote "It is about time this class distinction was cut out of stamp collecting. The backbone of the hobby is composed of those who collect modern stamps."

Included in the advertisements was one by J.N. Sissons offering the new 1954 Catalogue of BNA for 10¢ - refundable on an order of \$2 or more!

BNA Topics opened with the conclusion of Edward Whiting's series on Canadian Coil Stamps. Included is a

checklist of coil issues. The Postal History column presented a list of rarities in the 1840's (*wow!!*). The Perfin Study Group of BNAPS was announced with Dr. Jephcott as chairman. There was also a fascinating item on collecting stampless covers. (*The information is still valid today*).

February brought a continuation of the huge technical series about perforations on Newfoundland stamps. Max Rosenthal presented an essay "Philately in Canada in the 1890's." Some quotations (out of context) were: "The whole civilized world once looked upon stamp collecting as a crazy schoolboy whim."

"In October 1892, the 53rd edition of Scott's Catalogue had been announced. The price was advanced to 50 cents."

In March, Norman Hill wrote about the Canadian Royal Tour of 1951 complete with a schedule for the Train Post Office and drawings of the cancellations.

Wm. Jackson presented an interesting article on the economics of a stamp dealer. He discussed his cost of providing material in relation to the collectors' expectation of purchase price.

An examination of stamp production procedures explains how an attractive piece of art produced by Emanuel Hahn was made into an unattractive stamp.

Robert Lyman announced his new BNA List as "well illustrated and new treatment of classic issues, 25¢, deductible on the first \$2 order."

Other happenings in 1954...

Jan 1, Rose & Cotton Bowl are 1st sport colorcasts; Jan 23, Longest undefeated streak in Toronto Maple Leaf history (18 games); Jan 26, Ground breaking begins on Disneyland; Feb 23, 1st mass inoculation with Salk vaccine (Pittsburgh); Mar 22, 1st shopping mall opened in Southfield, Mich.; Mar 25 RCA manufactures 1st color TV set ■

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## STAMP SHOWS & MARKETPLACES

March 13, St Catharines, ON

Saturday at Holiday Inn, Niagara Room, QEW at Lake St.  
Hours: 10am to 4pm. Free parking and admission. For more information, contact Roy Houtby at 905-934-8377.

**March 13, Oakville, ON**

OAKPEX 2004, hosted by the Oakville Stamp Club. St Paul's United Church (east of the 4th Line on Rebecca St). Hours: 10am to 5pm. For more information, contact John Roberts at P.O.Box 69643, Oakville, ON L6J 7R4.

**March 20-21, Toronto, ON**

61th Annual Stamp Show & Bourse, hosted by the North Toronto Stamp Club. Civic Garden Centre, Edward Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East at Leslie Street. Hours: Sat. 10am to 5pm; Sun. 10am to 4pm. For more information, contact Herb at 416-445-7720 or e-mail: [ntstampclub@yahoo.ca](mailto:ntstampclub@yahoo.ca).

**March 20, Woodstock, ON**

OXPEX-TEX 2004, hosted by the Oxford Philatelic Society. John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive. Hours: 9:30am to 4:30pm. Exhibits, dealers, Canada Post, youth area. Free admission and parking. For more information, contact Show Chair, Oxford Philatelic Society, P.O.Box 20113, Woodstock, ON N4S 8X8.

**April 3, London, ON**

Hosted by the London Philatelic Society. White Oaks Community Centre, 119 Jalna Road. Hours: 10am to 4pm. Exhibits, dealers, and door prizes. Free admission.

**April 3, Peterborough, ON**

KAPEX 2004, hosted by the Kawartha Philatelic Society. Milroy Place, 300 Milroy Drive. Hours: 10am to 5pm. Exhibits, dealers, draws, door prizes, limited edition Show Cover, giveaways for kids. For more information, contact Rick Stankiewicz at 705-295-6158, or e-mail [stankiewicz@nexicom.net](mailto:stankiewicz@nexicom.net).

**April 16-18, Toronto, ON**

Toronto Spring Stamp Marketplace, hosted by the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Hours: Fri. 11am to 6pm; Sat. 10am to 6pm; Sun. 10am to 4pm. Dealers from Canada and U.S. Free admission. For more information, contact, 519-681-3420, or e-mail [secretary@csdaonline.com](mailto:secretary@csdaonline.com). Web site: [www.csdaonline.com](http://www.csdaonline.com)

**April 17, Kitchener, ON**

STAMPFEST 2004, hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society. Community Christian Reformed Church, 1275 Bleams Road. Hours: 10am to 4pm. Exhibits invited, Dealers, free admission and parking, hourly draws, door prizes, stamp pull, kids table, sales circuit, and much more. For more information, contact Tony Shaman at 519-745-2973, or e-mail: [shaman@smokesignal.net](mailto:shaman@smokesignal.net).

**April 24, Colborne, ON**

The Apple Country Stamp Show, hosted by the Colborne Stamp Club. Royal Canadian Legion, 92 King Street E. Hours: 10am to 4pm. Exhibits, dealers, consignment table, youth booth,

door prizes, and refreshment. Free admission and parking. For more information, contact Peter Howe, P.O.Box 894, Trenton, ON K8V 5R8, or call 613-392-4845, or e-mail: [howe9@sympatico.ca](mailto:howe9@sympatico.ca)

**April 30-May 1, Toronto, ON**

The 50+Plus Leisure Show presented by Forever Young Magazine is scheduled to be held at the International Centre, Hall 6, Airport Road, Mississauga. Hours \* Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 10am-5pm \* Admission \$5. Included in the admission is access to stamp displays, workshops and presentations. The philatelic component is organized and staged by the Stakeholders in Philately (SIP).

**May 1-2, Ottawa, ON**

ORAPEX 2004, hosted by the RA Stamp Club. RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive. Hours: Sat. 10am to 9pm; Sun. 10am to 4pm. Free admission and parking. For more information, e-mail: [ajracicot@rogers.com](mailto:ajracicot@rogers.com).

**May 8, Scarborough, ON**

SCARPEX 2004 Exhibition and Bourse, hosted by the Scarborough Stamp Club. Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. in Scarborough. (Eastpark is two blocks south of Lawrence) Hours: 9am to 3pm. Exhibits, 20 dealers, club sales table and circuit books, prizes and refreshments. Free admission and parking. For further information, contact Peter Butler 416-690-4666 or e-mail: [pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com)

**May 15, North York, ON**

NYPEX 2004, hosted by the North York Philatelic Society. Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1677 Wilson Avenue, Toronto. Hours: 10:00am to 5:00pm. Exhibits, 20+dealers, sales circuit. For further information, contact Art Halpert weekdays: 416-643-2020; evenings/weekends: 416-499-4406

**May 28-30, Halifax, NS**

Royal 2004 Royale, Exhibition and 76th Convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, hosted by the Nova Scotia Stamp Club. Lord Nelson Hotel, 1515 South Park St., Halifax, ND. For further information, write to: P.O.Box 2004, 10-118 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, NS B4A 1N7 or e-mail: [zelen@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:zelen@ns.sympatico.ca)



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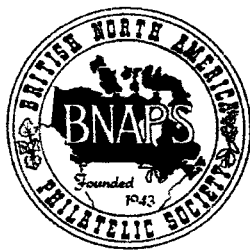
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We are proud to announce that BNAPS, the British North America Philatelic Society, has come on board as a new sponsor in Philajournal. The ad takes the form of a membership application

In this short column, I want to tell GTAPA members that there are several advantages to membership in BNAPS. In no particular order, some of my own reasons for joining are:

- **TOPICS** is a quarterly journal that contains well-researched articles written by BNAPS members. There is a wealth of information that is unlikely to be found anywhere else.
- The **ANNUAL CONVENTION** provides a venue for exhibits, seminars, and interaction with dealers all combined in a hospitable social environment.
- The **BOOK DEPT** offers a substantial discount to BNAPS members. You can easily recover your membership fee.
- There is a member **SALES CIRCUIT** for both buying and selling material.
- There are about thirty **STUDY GROUPS** that consider specialized topics. The annual fee to join these is minimal. The shared knowledge is immense.
- The **WEBSITE** is a source of pride. Visit [www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org) even if you don't take a membership.
- The **SOCIAL INTERACTION** is amazing. I went to my first convention in Ottawa in 2001 knowing absolutely nobody. Within a couple of hours, I had met and been introduced to more people than I could remember. Before the end of the event, I added more than fifty people to my list of contacts and acquaintances. ■

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## Club Members

Are you an active member? The kind that would be missed? Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock? Or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along? Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?

Do you volunteer your help at the guiding stick? Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

Come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart! Don't be just a member, take an active part!

Think this over member, you know what's right and wrong. Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

## Philafacts

### First Stamp Dealer

M. Jeanne Baptiste Philippe Constant Moens (1833-1908) started collecting stamps at the age of fifteen commencing trading in stamps and became the world's first stamp dealer in 1852. He is known simply as J. B. Moens and traded under that name.

In 1862 he published the "Manuel du Collectionneur de timbre-poste", and followed this up in February 1863 with the philatelic journal, "Le Timbre-Poste", which ran without missing an issue for 38 years.

Moens died in Brussels on April 29, 1908 after a long illness.

☞☞☞

### First Philatelic Journal

The *Monthly Advertiser*, an eight page journal, made its first appearance on December 15, 1862. The second issue, it changed its name to *The Stamp-Collectors' Monthly Advertiser* when it appeared in January 1863.

The third month, it changed its name again to *The Stamp-Collectors' Review and Monthly Advertiser*. It ceased publication after its nineteenth number on June 15, 1864.

☞☞☞

## Clothesline - Not Just for Laundry

How long has it been since your club had a "clothesline exhibit"? This is an old stand-by for many clubs, but I have been asked by others about the mechanics of having one. Perhaps some clubs are not familiar with this tried-and-true program.

Clothesline Exhibit Night is a way to have everyone participate by showing just one page or two of his/her collection or exhibit. Some clubs literally hang a clothesline across the room, and members clip their pages to the line. Exhibitors then take turns going up and saying a few words about their material. Many meeting places do not have a good way to hang a line, so most clubs have the members hold up a page and talk about it, or pass them around. I don't really care for passing the pages around because it is distracting to be looking at the material while listening to someone talk about something else. It is also not fair to the speaker for the audience to be so distracted. Let us know if your club has an interesting variation on this program. ■

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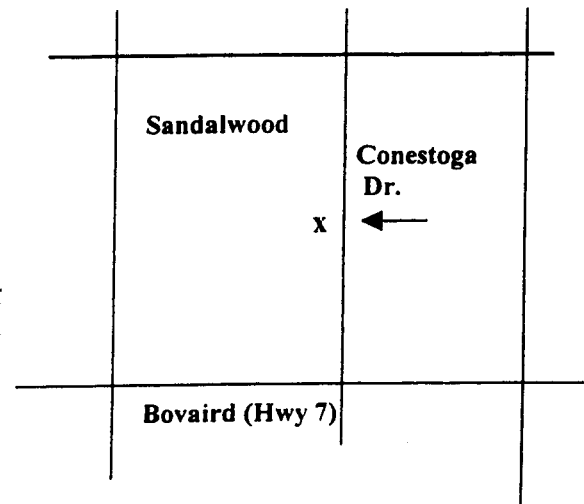
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