# PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

Volume IV • No. 1 • Whole No. 13 • Fall 2005

## Bob Thorne Receives GRVPA Memorial Philatelic Award



Bob Thorne, President of the Bramalea Stamp Club, was chosen as this year's recipient of the GRVPA Memorial Philatelic Award. This award is presented by the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association to an individual of a member club who has made a major contribution to the progress and success of philately in the past year. In Bob's case, his dedication and contributions to our hobby have been evident to those who know him for much longer than that.

His accomplishments are many. He has served as president (including the present term), secretary, circuit books manager and show chairman of the Bramalea club. Bob has also served as a director of the GRVPA, past president of PSS (Philatelic Specialists Society) and director of GTAPA (Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance). Bob is a past editor of "Flagpole" the newsletter of the Flag Cancel Study Group of BNAPS, author of articles for various philatelic publications and recently authored a major research work "The Machine Cancels of Canada". Bob is also a well-known and respected authority on Canadian slogan cancellations.

Bob shares his knowledge willingly and encourages all club members to learn more not only about their own collecting interests but about philately in general. There is never a meeting of the Bramalea club where Bob does not pull out items from his briefcase for members to look at and learn about.

Bob's infectious enthusiasm for our hobby makes him a very worthy recipient of the award.

Jerry Piotrowski





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## PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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

#### The Mission:

The mission of *PhilaJournal* is to provide its readers with news and information on philately in general with emphasis on the GTAPA 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.

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

#### **Editorial Staff**

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#### Advertising

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

Ernie Nyitrai at: Tel: 905-477-1511 or e-mail:<u>enyitr618@rogers.com</u>

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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 contributions of the advertisers. Do patronize them whenever possible. Mention you saw their ad in *PhilaJournal* 

### **EDITORIAL**

On June 14, 2005, the philatelic community suffered a major blow with the passing of Alan McKanna. Alan served the hobby in many ways including being the Treasurer of CAPEX and the Philatelic Specialists' Society of Canada.

In addition to his roles at the national level, Alan was also one of the founding members of the (now defunct) Etobicoke Philatelic Society.

When I joined the Etobicoke Club in 1976, I knew nobody in organized philately and was really the typical raw rookie. At the time, I didn't realize my fortune in meeting Alan at the Club. It was only at my third or fourth meeting that I heard Alan give a presentation on the Admiral Issue that ultimately became my "wake-up call". He taught me that there is a difference between collecting stamps and philately.

Alan also taught me the lesson of sharing philatelic knowledge. He loaned me his library of journals and philatelic publications encouraging me to read, enjoy and photocopy to my heart's content.

The Etobicoke Club missed his regular presence when Alan moved to Alliston. I continued to enjoy the pleasure of meeting Alan at a number of shows in Toronto. When I was admitted to the PSS last summer, there was a bonus in that I could see Alan at the meetings on a regular basis. Alas, his illness cut short our regular conversations.

I never got to know Alan well, but our discussions at club meetings had a profound influence on my own philatelic career. I will always remember him as one of the true gentlemen of the hobby.

Thank you Alan. You will be missed.

gjp

Welcome to **Coates & Coates Philatelist** as a new advertiser in PhilaJournal. We thank you for your support.

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#### **President's Messages**

#### "No community can thrive without a journal"

With great anticipation and, yes, even excitement, another season of stamp club meetings, is almost upon us! Most clubs don't meet over the summer so in the next few weeks we all will be attending the first session of the new year, to catch up on what has gone on with colleagues over July and August. We'll be writing on our calendars and in our date books, all the meeting dates, show dates and other events associated with our hobby. We will also be renewing our commitments and planning new initiatives to continue our efforts to make stamp collecting personally rewarding for ourselves and others.

This newsletter is the first issue of volume four, signifying the beginning of the GTAPA's fourth year of operation, and it announces many of those important dates alluded to above. It is obvious that the Board of Directors, the editor of *PhilaJournal* and its contributors, have been planning and working towards the new year's program, long before you attend your first club meeting this fall. As we have said before, it's the *PhilaJournal* that, for many of the 400 plus stamp collectors who are members of our nine philatelic clubs/societies, is the vital link to the Alliance's work.

The quotation above is from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi. He understood and supported the notion that without regular communication among member groups, the larger organization begins to loose touch and slowly become irrelevant to the broader membership. The Alliance directors and executive have always believed this to be true and have therefore, always given the *PhilaJournal* a high priority. A great deal of time and effort is required to produce a first-class newsletter and our team of club writers along with the editorial staff, have never drifted from that reality. It is very important that the *PhilaJournal* continue to be the lifeblood of the Alliance.

Upon taking over the responsibility of the editorship of *PhilaJournal,* **Garfield Portch** has brought several changes and innovations to the newsletter. He has, undoubtedly, brought a unique "stamp of excellence" to the task. Our newsletter is quickly becoming the first class publication we have all dreamed about creating, for the membership and for the readers beyond the clubs. Joining Garfield in the production of *PhilaJournal* has been **Ernie Nyitrai**, the assistant editor responsible for advertising. He has raised the funds through the selling of advertising that has enabled us to continually improve the product. Through his leadership and competence, Ernie has produced the funds to realize the improvements we have envisaged.

Finally, and in many ways the most important acknowledgement, is to the contributors. Every club has someone who is responsible for getting club news to the editor. Others write articles that share their enthusiasm for their club's activities or about some aspect of the hobby that they think readers would be interested in. Their contributions make *PhilaJournal* a true representation of our GTAPA community. To Garfield, Ernie and all these contributors, we send our thanks and appreciation for the great work they are doing. Please make sure you mention your personal thanks and appreciation to them when you see them at your club's first meeting in September.

#### Board of Director's Meetings for 2005-2006

The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, September to June (except December) at 7:00 p.m., at the Vincent Greene Foundation, located at 10 Summerhill Rd. just one block north of the Summerhill subway station. Members of clubs are always welcome to attend these open meetings. Here are the dates: September 28, October 26, November 23 January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24 and June 28.

These Wednesday evenings are also a great opportunity for members to visit Canada's finest philatelic library. John Laraway (West Toronto and North Toronto) is our resident librarian and is available on the meeting dates to make the resources of the library available to you. If you are doing research on any phase of philately, particularly Canadian, creating your own album pages, needing to refer to a number of different catalogues, or researching a topic, the V. Greene Library is a must visit. If you speak with any GTAPA representative of your club about your intention, perhaps transportation can be shared. You are also most welcome to join Board Members at 6:00 for dinner at a restaurant close by. Perhaps you might share your wish to visit the library at a club meeting to see if a group could be organized to come down together for a research session.

#### **Requests for Exchanges**

Over the past few months I have received a few requests for opportunities to exchange stamps, covers, postcards even banknotes. Here are two that some of our readers might be interested in following up on.

"Can you please tell me if any members of the GTAPA clubs would be interested in trading stamps. I am a long-time collector, interested in trading used stamps from Canada, USA, Australia, Greta Britain, Channel Islands, Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Greece and UN. I have want lists and use Scott numbers."

I responded to this Email request, to find out a little more about the writer, Rose Anne Evans. She and her husband live full time in their RV in a park called Rock Glen,. in Arkona, near London ON. Rose Anne uses Email, <u>stamprose@hotmail.com</u> but will gladly correspond with you using "snail mail."

If you collect uncirculated banknotes, IRC's or postcards on the topics of airliners, fire engines or mobile post offices, you might want to follow up on this request. Wilson Yeung of Hong Kong wishes to find collectors who would be interested in exchanging the above-mentioned items. He asks that you write first to confirm arrangements. His address is: AGL Trading Shop C19, San Po Kong Plaza, 33 Shung Ling Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon, HK, People's Republic of China.

These are not recommendations, but opportunities for exchanges you may wish to explore. I would be happy to hear of any readers' experiences with these contacts.

#### I am FED UP trying to track this down!

While this item has nothing to do with philately, I thought readers would enjoy the piece. I recently found it, a second time, in my folder of items to include in future newsletters. I had photocopied it from somewhere but had neglected to write down its source. I suspect it might be from *ShoeBox*, the Lakeshore Stamp Club's fine newsletter, but I'm not sure. Editor Ray Ireson won't mind if it is. If it isn't, I hope it's not copyrighted!

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word and that is "UP." It is easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of a list, but when we waken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are there officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write the report? We call UP our friends, we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP old cars.

At other times, the little word has a special meaning: People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite or a sweat, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about the word UP!

To be knowledgeable of the proper uses of the word UP, check UP out in a dictionary. In mine, UP takes over half a column and definitions add UP to over thirty. One could go on and on about the word UP but I'll wrap it UP now. My time is UP, so I'll shut UP!

I trust that you won't get UP tight about bringing UP this Uplifting dissertation, even though it has nothing to do with stamp collecting!

#### **A Personal Request**

Many readers know that several months ago, Canada Post initiated a program of the manual sorting of philatelic mail thus preventing letters from being cancelled through the usual machine canceling process. The change is facilitated through the use, by postmasters, of a "*Yellow Label*," to be wrapped around the mail in question before they send it off to the sorting plant. I have written about this innovation in the philatelic press before and am anxious now, to write follow up article(s) on the success rate and to compare it to the innovations of other countries around the world, that have tried to deal with the problems of doubling cancellations and machine cancellations on philatelic mail.

If readers have stories about successful or failed attempts to obtain this service, at post offices they have visited, I would be happy to hear about them. There is no witch hunt here, merely the collecting of experiences to give praise where it is due and to articulate areas of concern. Nor am I interested in names and locations, just stories about general experiences! Innovative programs in such a huge operation as Canada Post are often only achieved through time and positive communication. No one knows that better than the managers at Canada Post. As a key stakeholder in this process, collectors need to be helping with solutions not creating further frustrations. That's the goal. I can be reached through Email: pbutler@ilap.com or the GTAPA mailbox, as listed on page three. Please remember the old adage, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." GTAPA wishes to be part of the solution.

If you are not familiar with the "*Yellow Labels*" ask, at your next club meeting, for your GTAPA reps. to explain the Canada Post program.

#### Summer's Gone!

I hope that you have enjoyed the great weather this past July and August and that all your plans for accomplishments around home and vacations away from home, have brought some gratification.. Did you get all those stamps on paper soaked? Did you get started on the new collection or exhibit? Neither did I! But the summer has been a welcome change of pace from all the usual day-to-day activities of the other 10 months. I'm ready for the change back to the normal routines and I'm looking forward to see my stamp club friends once again. I hope you are too... and have a great year with stamps!

Yours in philately,

Peter Butler



"Stamps, stamps, that's all he knows — probably chasing down some stamp fiend on the beach right now!"



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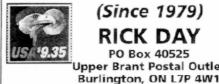
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There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true. Winston Churchill

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#### INTERESTING COVER



November 6, 1894

This is a drop letter posted at Toronto with no postage paid. A receiving mark was applied along with a hand-stamp RETURNED FOR POSTAGE. The letter was returned to the sender who applied the 2¢ postage directly over the original receiving mark thereby creating a "*stamped on the nose cancellation*". The letter then received a second cancellation and was processed in the normal course of events.

## **GTAPA NEWS**

#### **BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB**

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> **Sunday** (from 2 to 4 pm), October to June and the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tuesday** (from 7 to 9 pm) year round at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd and Bramalea Rd.), Brampton. Visitors always welcome. For more information contact **Bob Thorne** at 905-792-3526 or e-mail <u>r.thorne@sympatico.ca</u>

Check out our web site at www.bramaleastampclub.com

Congratulations to our president **Bob Thorne** on winning the GRVPA Memorial Philatelic Award (see full story elsewhere in this issue).

After a few months of bouncing around, the Bramalea Stamp Club web site has found a new home. If you have one of our old addresses bookmarked or listed as a favorite, make sure to plug in the new address (as shown above) as we are unsure as to how long the old addresses will redirect visitors to our new site. If you have not yet visited our web site take a few minutes to check out the excellent work done by our Webmaster **Steve Johnson.** 

The theme nights at our Tuesday meetings where members bring an item for others to look at and later hear about continue to be quite popular. To date we have had the letter E, the colour green, the number 7 and the letter V and the colour red. Since members can interpret the theme any way they wish, there are always interesting items to see.

At the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, our resident club dealer **Ron Feero** showed club members some very interesting recently acquired classic Canadian material.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> will see the return of Sunday meetings after a three-month summer break. All members are looking forward to the lively auctions conducted by Bob Thorne at each Sunday meeting.

Jerry Piotrowski

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

#### EAST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Meetings are at Stan Wadlow Senior's Action Centre on Cedarvale Ave., (Woodbine & Cosburn area) on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, October to May, at 9:30 to 11 :00 a.m.

The membership fee is \$5.00 yearly, payable to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse for Seniors.

Activities include stamp exchanges, a stamp dealer who buys and sells stamps, estate

evaluations and disposals, stamp chats and fellowship.

Full benefits at the centre are available to the members including: social events, bus trips, card playing and exercise classes.

The objective of the club is to provide a meeting place to enjoy the hobby. Stamp collecting is often a solitary hobby so having a place to meet and enjoy the various activities, in a social atmosphere, is very worthwhile.

Doug Cockburn

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

## INSURANCE & BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets at 6:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from September to June (except December when it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday). Meetings are held in the offices of Canaccord Capital Corporation, 13<sup>th</sup> floor, 320 Bay Street in Toronto



#### NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Meetings are held on the **second and fourth Thursdays** of each month from September to June (except December), starting at 7:00 p.m., at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, east side at Heath Street. 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.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

#### NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:00 pm (July & August, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West, Toronto (1½ blocks west of Bathurst Street)

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

NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the GTAPA.

For more information, contact Art Halpert at 416-643-2020 (days) or 416-499-4406 (evenings & weekends) or e-mail <u>ahalpert@sympatico.ca</u>

ROYAL &

#### POLISH-CANADIAN COIN AND STAMP CLUB "TROYAK"

Club "Troyak", meets on the last Sunday of each month, except holidays, at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario.

Club's mailing address is: 2550 Goldenridge Road, Unit 34, Mississauga, ON L4X 2S3.

"Troyak" was established with goals towards education, collecting and preservation of coins, stamps, paper money, orders and medals of Poland's history.

The Club is officially registered member at the Ontario Numismatic Association and is an active member of GTAPA.

The Polish-Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "Troyak" is a non-profit organization which can always provide assistance in dealing with issues concerning coins and stamps. Persons who are interested in the education and study in numismatic and philatelic matters are welcome.

"Troyak's" Executive Team established in February 2005, "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club, and **Zygmunt (Ziggy) Borowski** is club's director . For more information, contact: Ziggy at 416-454-2790 or <u>bzygmunt@hotmail.com</u>

"Troyak's" next meetings are: Sept. 25, 2005; Oct. 30, 2005; Nov. 27, 2005 at 4:30pm. Refreshments are always available. Club issues monthly info/bulletin on its website, and also publishes bulletin for the members who attend club's meetings.

For more information, contact: Ignac K. at 905-273-5561 or, Wieslaw G. at 416-258-1651 or, Robert O. at 416-462-9097. www.troyakclub.com info@troyakclub.com

#### "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club !

The Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak" Executive Team has established in February 2005, "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club in Mississauga, Ontario. Official introduction of the "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club took place during the II Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show on February 20, 2005, at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga. Club's Director, **Zygmunt** (**Ziggy) Borowski**, invites all children and their parents and also teenagers to join "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club. Meetings taking place at: John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario. For more information, contact: Ziggy Borowski at 416-454-2790 or bzygmunt@hotmail.com



Experience enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

#### TORONTO STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB

Toronto Stamp Collectors Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from September to, and including, June. Our regular meetings are held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, 426 University Avenue, Toronto, starting at 8pm. Business attire with a tie is a requirement of the RCMI.

For more information contact John Talman at 416-363-9997 or by email at <u>italman@interlog.com</u>

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

#### SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB Announcing a Change of Meeting Format

The Scarborough Stamp Club will shuffle its meeting format this fall to improve the auctions program. Traditionally, the floor auctions have been at the end of the meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month. This has also been the meeting when guest presentations and special activities are held. The result has been that often the auction is too late in the evening. It also puts pressure on the special program part of the meeting to wrap up earlier. To alleviate this problem, floor auctions will now be held on the first Tuesday of the month meetings, at 8:00 p.m. Members will be able to buy and sell material earlier in the evening and there won't be the pressure on the program organizers to wrap up the presentations by a certain time. The fall meetings will be a trial period following which the executive will evaluate the change.

We believe the buyers and sellers will have more confidence that the floor auctions will have a better chance at success using this new arrangement. Auctioneer **Rick Howard**, who proposed the idea in June, thinks that with a regular and earlier start to the floor auctions will mean that more people will attend them. It has also been decided that at the third Tuesday meetings, there will always be table auctions. (Members wishing to sell material can lay it out on the tables provided, labeled with the price requested, and buyers can pick up what they wish to buy and pay the owner directly.)

The first Tuesday of each month then, will continue to be an opportunity for informal trading, buying and selling of material among members, to purchase material from the circuit books and the Woolworth tables (5 & 10 cent books) and to attend the floor auction scheduled for 8:00 p.m. each night. As always, visitors from other clubs are most welcome to join us for all of these evenings' activities. They will be held on the following nights: Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1. and Dec. 6.

The third Tuesday of each month then, will continue to have a short business meeting, followed

by a pre-arranged program of workshops, presentations, slide shows etc. Members may visit the circuit book and Woolworth tables prior to the start of the meeting which will begin at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a table auction each night. Refreshments are provided and guests are always welcome.

The doors are open for all club meetings at 6:00 p.m. and are held at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 East Park Blvd., (Lawrence and Markham area) in Scarborough. For more information call Peter Butler 416-690-4666.



#### WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Regular meetings begin at 7:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from September to June at the Fairfield Senior's Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue (3 blocks south of Bloor Street West and 2 blocks east of Islington Avenue). There is ample free parking. Regular meetings feature a voice auction and a silent table auction. The Study Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the same location.

The Ted Allen Cup was contested at the May study session. Members display (without rules) anything they choose with the winner being selected by popular vote among the attendees. This year's winner was **Victor Skidra** for a 12 page exhibit entitled *Latvia Air Post Semi-postal Stamps* and Their Usage

The Drake Trophy competition for single frame exhibits was held in June. This is an opportunity to compete and be judged at a more formal level with the top three exhibits advancing as the Club entry for the Challenge Cup at STAMPEX. This year's winner was **Aulis Nahri** for an exhibit entitled *Finland Between the Wars, 1918-1940.* 

As part of the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club, a Show was held at the Fairfield Centre on June 25. Twenty frames of exhibits were on display. Other activities included a small bourse, Ted's Tubs and approval books. Thanks are extended to **Dan McInnis** of *Polaris Stamps* for traveling from Sudbury to support our Show.

<u>Study Group Programme, 2005-06</u> September: **Ralph Trimble** - Re-entries October: Workshop – Mounting your Collection November: Competition-single page for the Alusio Trophy December: Xmas dinner January: **Ingo Nessel**, Sand Dune Philately February: **Bill Coates**, Discovering Covers March: Show & Tell April: TBA May: Competition – Allen Cup June: Competition - Drake Trophy

For further information, contact **Frank Alusio**. falusio@sympatico.com

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

The Library in the former National Archives of Canada will be moving from 344 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario to Place de la Cité in Gatineau, Quebec in early July. There it will be known as the Staff Resource Centre for the newly merged Library and Archives Canada.

The Philatelic Library collection will remain at 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario and reference assistance and access to this collection, including interlibrary loans, will be provided by Library and Archives Canada. For Reference assistance, phone 1-866-578-7777 (toll free) or (613) 996-5115 (local). Reference requests can also be submitted by email to <u>Reference@lac-bac.gc.ca</u>

For interlibrary loans, consult the Library and Archives Canada website at <u>http://www.collectionscanada.ca/ill/index-e.html</u> or phone (613) 996-7527.

Access to the Philatelic Library : http://collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020127\_e.ht ml

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

Volunteers are needed to serve in several roles at STAMPEX in October.

Please contact your GTAPA rep or a member of the STAMPEX Organizing Committee.

Please put something back into the hobby.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

#### ERRATA

In the last issue it was implied that the GRVPA Grand Fair had table space for all GTAPA Clubs to present their circuit books.

We are sorry to report that an incorrect position was stated in that there is one table only for the use of the GTAPA.

Members are still invited to attend the Fair being held in Cambridge on October 2.

#### Collecting Canadian Colorano "Silks" Covers

Gordon Payne





While attending CAPEX '87, I discovered Colorano "Silks" at one of the dealer's booths. Their appeal was immediate!! Why? The subjects on all stamps are works of art. The cachets on the Colorano "Silks" are an extension of the art subjects on the stamps and add to the overall beauty of the stamps. The gold border surrounding the cachets is an additional attraction. The material from which the cachets are made (rayon acetate - a silk-like fabric), produces vibrant and luminescent colours with an almost three dimensional effect. The net effect is a very attractive and pleasing presentation in most cases.

The originators of these covers, Ray and Jennie Novak of East Norwich, New York, began producing covers as early as 1958.

In 1965, the name Colorano was coined by Hans Frankel of Ayal Albums. It was a shortened version of Color Ray No(vak). The pronunciation quickly changed to sound like Colorado.

However, it wasn't until 1971 that the first Colorano "Silk" First Day Cover was produced. The result was phenomenal and the business quickly expanded beyond its original base of United States stamp issues.

Production of Canadian Colorano "Silks" began with the commemorative stamps issued in 1973. Unfortunately, as time went on, the original enthusiasm declined and production ceased with the last commemorative issue of 1994.

For the Canadian covers, 5 or 6 artists were used to produce the subjects of the cachets. The resulting paintings were then miniaturized to fit the cachets and subsequently, applied to the envelopes manually. (The process is a well kept secret! !) When Colorano was sold some years ago, the FDC's for some of the Canadian commemorative issues of 1994 were outstanding namely,

- Cat.#1517 –18 XV Commonwealth Games May 20 Cat #1519 -22 XV Commonwealth Games August 5 Cat #1525 Great Canadians, William Avery (Billy) Bishop), August 12
- Cat #1529 -32 Prehistoric Life in Canada, 4 mammals September 26

The envelopes had been prepared with stamps and postmarks, but the cachets had not been done!! Part of the sale agreement required that Ray Novak complete these items before the sale agreement expired in 2003.

I learned about this situation from Ray Novak through a number of e-mails and a telephone call in 2003. As a result I volunteered to look up various sources and supplied Ray with several pictures for him to consider for the missing cachets. Eventually, he picked one of the pictures I supplied!! Appropriately, it adorns the Billy Bishop cover postmarked August 12, 1994. The missing 1994 commemorative FDC's were finally released last year -9 years late!

I have been invited to show a 10 frame display at Stampex '05 next October. Two frames will feature Colorano "Silks". The first frame features the variety of FDC's issued during the Canadian production years and includes the Billy Bishop cover referred to above and bears Ray Novak's signature. It also includes the original painting by Ray Novak's brother, Arthur, for the cachet for the 1973 P.E.I. Centenary stamp. The other frame features 30 of the 5'0 U.S. Wildlife stamps Colorano FDC's issued at CAPEX '87 with Toronto, Canada included in the postmark.

Come and enjoy some very attractive FDC's.

#### Surcharged German Stamps, 1938.1945.

by Herr A Graf

From the BMSV Favoritenjournal Vol 35 Nr 3 July-Aug 2004, translated & adapted by H Kucera.

Only 25 of 210 commemorative stamps issued during this period came without a surcharge! They are: \* April 8, 1938: Two stamps commemorating Austria's Anschluss, one printed in Berlin, the other in Vienna. \* June 21, 1938: Breslau Sports Festival, four values. \* July 5, 1938: Zeppelin Airmails, two values.

- \* April 4, 1939: Young Workers' Professional Competitions, two values.
- \* Sept. 18, 1939: Occupation of Danzig, two values.
- \* March 3, 1940: Leipzig Trade Fair, four values.
- \* March 1, 1941: Leipzig Trade Fair, four values.
- \* March 8,1941: Vienna Trade Fair, four values.
- \* Aug. 8, 1942: Storm Troopers' Competitions, one value

Studying the various types of issue during this period, we find 25 commemorative stamps without surcharge, 185 with surcharge, 25 definitive stamps with Hitler head, 14 definitive stamps of Danzig overprinted "Deutsches Reich", and 2 newspaper Stamps -a total of 251.

The amount of surtax for individual stamps was obviously chosen at random and it rounded the selling prices upwards by considerable amounts. The intended recipients were initially the German Nothilfe, an emergency relief organisation. It later became the Winterhilfe or Winterhelp. Then there was the Culture Funds of Adolf Hitler, Sports (e.g., Brown Ribbon and Blue Ribbon for horse racing) and many others. The largest surtax applied is on the Heligoland stamp, with a postal value of 6 Pfennig and a surcharge of 94 Pfennig.

Despite the huge surtax which, with few exceptions, exceeded the postal value by more than 100%, there was no problem with sales. On the one hand, the population at large was used to the begging and cajoling system to generate contributions. It began with the "Eintopfsonntag" (a simple one-pot meal for Sundays) and street collections, and ended with the collection of reusable materials like textiles, paper and aluminium foil. In addition there were gifts for the war effort with which the common comrades had to prove their loyalty and allegiance to the Reich under the watchful eyes of the Nazi Party Honchos.

On the other hand, cash was not in short supply, because most consumer goods were rationed and available only with special dispensation, such as clothing or shoes for victims of Allied bombing raids. In this case the ordinary citizen used postage stamps as a way to escape from the dormant Reichsmark. It did not matter, and few people troubled themselves trying to consider for which nefarious purposes these stamp surtaxes were being used. Not only did the war effort consume vast sums of cash, but many Nazi Party members enriched themselves in a criminal way at the expense of the rest of the population. It did not help that the German Court of Accounts criticised Reichspost Minister Ohnesorge on January 22, 1940 as follows:

#### 1.) Opening of a summer post office in Graz

For the first time, the Reichspost Minister transferred management functions from Berlin to Graz in 1939. In this connection, two parcels of land were purchased for 177,000 Reichsmark, intended for the benefit of 14 employees, consisting mainly of the Minister's ersonnel. "In oral representations the Minister found it necessary to draw attention to the fact that the Fuhrer also has a Summer Post Office at Obersalzberg and similar action by a minister of the Reich should hardly be subject to Objections".

#### 2.) Purchase of a motor yacht

In 1939 the Reichspost Minister purchased a motor yacht for 42,000 Reichsmark. The Post Ministry justified the purchase with the visit of the Italian Postal Minister Benni, in order to ply the waters of Berlin with Signor Benni. At the same time, the Ministry of Transport had the use of several excellent motor yachts, which could have been used for this purpose,

## 3.) Purchase of oil paintings sold by Heinrich Hoffmann

"The Court of Accounts does not ignore the principle of 'Beauty at the Work Place' and its application to adorn offices of the German Reichspost. It does not always seem necessary to provide oil paintings attributed to the Fuhrer at prices between 1,500 and 2,000 Reichsmark, or the adornment of other offices with such oil paintings priced at 7,000 Reichsmark". A postman would have had to spend more than four times his annual wages to make a purchase of 7,000 Reichsmark, and a high-ranking postmaster would need to shell out almost two years salary!

# 4.) Production of illustrations for commemorative stamps of the German Reichspost by the firm of Heinrich Hoffmann, Munich:

"The German Reichspost has arranged for the production of illustrations of newly designed stamps for press releases. These were prepared by the Reich Printing Office at a cost of 1 15 Reichsmark each. The German Reichspost paid for artists' designs, including printing privileges, 800 Reichsmark for each accepted design. Since 1936 the Reichspost Minister has arranged for illustrations to be prepared by the firm of Heinrich Hoffmann, with some individual payments for illustrations reaching up to 18,000 Reichsmark. Any examination of these increased individual payments was not possible, because the firm of Heinrich Hoffmann only gave oral and insufficient evidence,"

Interestingly, the firm of Heinrich Hoffmann was the favourite photographic enterprise of the Fuhrer. In its studio Hitler first met the young Eva Braun, who later became his companion, Being a photographer, Heinrich Hoffman (1885-1957) was guite aware of the rights of individuals, especially the rights pertaining to anybody's likeness. He correctly interpreted this with respect to likenesses being portrayed on postage stamps, particularly when the original image was the result of his own work. Hitler and Hoffmann benefited immensely from this, first from various commemorative stamps, and later from definitive stamps issued for Germany, the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, as well as the General Government for Poland, all bearing the likeness of Hitler. The amount attributed to this right of an individual in this case can only be expressed in fractions of a percentage, but the mass production made an enormous difference, Once, Albert Speer witnessed the presentation of a cheque to Hitler by Reichspost Minister Ohnesorge for an amount in excess of 50 Million Reichsmark, as partial discharge for Hitler's rights and his consent for using his portrait on the stamps. This cheque was for the personal use of the Fuhrer and there must have been many others.

The former Reichspresident Hindenburg never accepted payment for using his likeness on German stamps, probably because nobody thought of the idea that it should require payment. Hindenburg is remembered for his quote regarding Hitler, supposedly made in 1932, in connection with stamps: "*I will make Hitler my postal minister, then he can lick my backside*".

The German Court of Accounts displayed a certain amount of bravery when it publicised the following case of corruption: "The Reichspost Minister has awarded the firm of Heinrich Hoffmann exclusive rights for the production of souvenir sheets [Schmuckblatter], without requiring tenders from other sources. These were not printed on their own premises, and other artists in various printing businesses were employed as well. The Reichspost Minister surely knows artists and printers capable of producing these in sufficient numbers. The insertion of the Hoffmann firm could only result in unnecessary increases in costs. The Court of Accounts cannot approve this ".

The property of Heinrich Hoffmann, derived largely from the former Reichspost Ministry, was for the most part confiscated in 1947. Despite this setback, Hoffmann lived comfortably right up to his death in 1957, with income from his archive of photographs, consisting of about 21i2 million photographs, representing unique documents of the times.

The Investigative Institute (Forschungsanstalt) of the German Reichspost, Sections II and III of the Reichspost Ministry, was responsible for Telephone, Telegraph and Long Distance Communications, including the entire telegraph and wireless communications system. At the outset of the war, this made it a priority target of the enemy, but it also became a weapon. This institute was one of the four main espionage centres in Germany, next to the airforce (Luftwaffe), the High Command of the Army, and the SS secret police. The financing for all this was made possible primarily by the surtax on the "Kameradschaftsblocks" series of stamps, supposedly in aid of postal employees and their families, but for obvious reasons there are no specific explanations how and where these funds were used.

You are still wondering what happened to the many millions of Reichsmark generated by surcharges on commemorative stamps? Who used this money without shame? You still don't know? Three guesses, the first two don't count.

But the stamps remain...

#### A Club Member's Reflections

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 crowd, Or would you rather stay at home and complain both long and loud? Do you give a little time and help to make things tick, Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the "clique"?

There's quite a program scheduled that means success if done, And it can be accomplished with help from everyone. So come to all the meetings and help with hand and heart, Don't be just another member but take an active part. Think it over, member are you right or wrong? Are you an active member or do you just belong?

Thanks to Editor Ray Ireson The ShoeBox,, Lakeshore Stamp Club

#### A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in his shoes. That way, when you criticize him, you're a mile away and you have his shoes.

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#### World Numbering System (WNS)

Jerry Piotrowski

One of the banes of philatelists is the multitude of illegal or improper stamps issued each year. Some of these issues sometimes even appear to have been issued by legitimate stamp issuing authorities. In an effort to make it easier for collectors to weed out the bad from the good, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and The World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) developed, and introduced on January 1 2002, the World Numbering System (WNS) with the aim of creating a database of all authentic postage stamps issued by UPU member countries and territories on or after that date.

After receiving postage stamps and verifying their authenticity, the UPU assigns a WNS number to the stamp and enters it into the database. The WNS number consists of a two-letter country code, a threedigit serial number followed by a dot then a two-digit year code. Since each stamp issued in a set will differ from the others in design, value, color or format, each one is assigned a unique number. For example Canada's 2005 50-cent Year of the Rooster stamp was assigned the number CA001.05 while the two Daffodil stamps were assigned CA015.05 and CA016.05.

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The WNS site is at <u>www.wnsstamps.ch</u>. The opening screen provides pop-up listings for the country of choice, the year and month. Also available are search options for themes (more on this later) and specific subject/keyword searches. Once the search parameters have been entered and the search button clicked, the screen will flip to one that shows the first page of the search results. Each item will show an image of the actual stamp, the WNS number assigned to it, the country of origin, date of issue and a brief description of the item. By further clicking on to an individual item further details of the item are shown including other items in the set (if applicable), size and layout /format.



By leaving the Country field set to "Any country/Post" and specifying a particular year, collectors of topical or thematic issues can find out all items issued related to that topic.

I have found that for some reason updates to the database are not necessarily done on a timely basis, perhaps some issuing countries only provide information at set intervals. For example although Austria shows stamps issued as late as July of this year, the entries for Canada only go to items issued in March. I noticed that the entries for the NHL stamps of Canada mention that they were issued both perforated and imperforated for all years except for 2004 where only the perforated stamps are mentioned.

Although I have not checked the whole list of issuing countries, I did notice that the Vatican was not in the database. I have contacted the WNS as to the reason for this and will update readers if and when I receive a reply.

At the time of writing this article over 96,000 individuals had visited the site and the database contained over 17,000 registered stamps. By my reckoning that represents an average of over 90 stamps being issued each and every week!

A MATTER OF PERCEPTION To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.



"Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet."

Scott Adams, The Dilbert Principle

#### STAMPEX 'O5 Organizing Committee

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1	NF 2/98	VF COMPLETE SHEET OF 36 OF THE SERF FORGERIES IN	CAT.\$	NET\$
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2	NB 5P	VF PROOF ON INDIA SCARCE	300.00+++P	250.00
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5	NE 78/85	SCARCE SPSUPERB 6 PROOFS COMPLETE ON INDIA ON CARD	1500.00+++P 450.00+++P	1250.00 375.00
		VF PROOF PAIR IN BROWN CARMINE	360.00+++P	295.00
7		var VF NH BOTTOM LEFT MARGIN CORNER PAIR PROOF ON		277100
		BOOKEND PAPER VERY SCARCE	ST 350.00+++P	350.00
		B COLUMBIA		
8	2	F "1" NEW WESTMINSTER SCARCE	250.00+++P	195.00
- 9	6	F BLUE OVAL CN FRESH	250.00+++P	195.00
10	9	F "35" IN BLUE FRESH	250.00+++P	195.00
11	15	VF BLUE "3T" GRID CHOICE	1200.00+++P	925.00
12	18	F VF "35" GRID FRESH PERF 12.5 SCARCE	1800.00+++P	1375.00
		NEW BRNSWK		
13	6*	VF+ UNUSED CHOICE	50.00+++P	50.00
14	2	VF+ 4 GOOD TO HUGE MGNS CHOICE	250.00+++P	105 00
14	2i*	VF 4 LARGE TO GOOD MGNS OG FRESH	1800.00+++P	195.00 1375.00
15	2		1000100111	1319.00
		P. E. I.		
16	13i*	SUPERB OG CHOICE WITH "DOT BETWEEN E & E" VAR E	ST 100.00+++P	100.00
		NEWFNDLAND		
17	5*	SUPERB UNUSED LOVELY COPY	300.00+++P	235.00
18	11i*	VF 4 MGNS UNUSED WMK "18" SCARCE	700.00+++P	575.00
19	13	VF LCN CHOICE COPY	1000.00+++P	815.00
20	20**	VF NH FRESH	33.75+++P	30.00
21 22	30* 31*	VF LH VERY FRESH VF LH FRESH	150.00+++P 50.00+++P	115.00 40.00
23	32A		ST 175.00+++P	175.00
24	45a**	VF NH IMPRINT MGN FRESH	70.00+++P	70.00
25	48**	VF+ NH CHOICE	120.00+++P	120.00
26	60**	VF NH NICE	60.00+++P	50.00
27 28	69** 71**	VF NH VF NH NICE	60.00+++P 80.00+++P	50.00 70.00
29	83c**	SUPERB NH CHOICE ON THIN BLUISH PAPER	80.00+++P	70.00
30	92A**	VF NH CHOICE	100.00+++P	90.00
31	102**	VF+ NH CHOICE	200.00+++P	180.00
32	109**	VF+ NH CHOICE	60.00+++P	50.00
33	110**	SUPERB NH CHOICE VF NH CHOICE & SCARCE	200.00+++P 60.00+++P	175.00
35	112**	JVF NH SCARCE	110.00+++P	95.00
36	113**	VF+ NH CHOICE	100.00+++P	90.00
37		VF+ NH CHOICE	25.00+++P	20.00
38	123**	SUPERB NH CHOICE & RARE THUS	157.50+++P	175.00
39 40	126** 138**	SUPERB NH CHOICE VF NH PERF 14 X 13.7	87.50+++P 70.00+++P	95.00 65.00
40	144**	VF NH PERF 14.2 X 14	140.00+++P	125.00
42	189a**	VF NH IMPERF PAIR IN DARK ROSE LAKE	112.50+++P	95.00
43	191d**	VF NH DIE 2 IMPERF PAIR	180.00+++P	150.00
-44	193a**	VF NH IMPERF PAIR W/CRACKLY GUM	180.00+++P	150.00
45	194a**	VF NH IMPERF PAIR SCARCE	225.00+++P 225.00+++P	185.00
46 47	199a** 209a**	VF NH IMPERF PAIR VF NH IMPERF PAIR	225.00+++P	185.00 185.00
48		VF MN FRESH SET OF 4	30.00+++P	25.00
49	C 8**	VF NH PERF 14.3	200.00+++P	175.00
50	c11**	VF NH PERF 14.3	300.00+++P	265.00
51	c12*	SUPERB LH CHOICE	450.00+++P	345.00
52 53	C12**	SUPERB NH CHOICE VF NH SLANTING SURCHARGE SCARCE	800.00+++P 1040.00+++P	650.00 875.00
54	C18F**	VF NH FORGERY DONE THE SAME YEAR AS ISSUED VERY	10-10.00111	0.0.00
- 1		SCARCE ES	ST 350.00+++P	350.00
55	J1-6**	VF NH NICE SET ALL PERF 10 -10.5	122.00+++P	95.00



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#### **CENSOR MARKINGS TYPES ON POLISH MAIL 1945-46**

Jerry Piotrowski

This short article is not intended to be an in depth item on Polish censor markings during the period from late June 1945 to the end of October 1946, but rather to explain what the following three handstamps represent.



The first type of handstamp was used during the period June 26 1945 to January 31 1946 and shows an eagle over a two line "Sprawdzono przez/cenzurę wojskową (checked by/military censor) and a censor number. Ten varieties of this handstamp exist with differences in font type and size and size and shape of the eagle. The censor numbers range from 6 to 2198 with 1191 numbers used. Various colour inks were used. The word "cenzura" makes it easy to figure out that this is probably some form of censor marking.



During the period February 1 1946 to late April 1946 a circular (28 mm) handstamp containg a four digit number between the letters R P and U C. These letters stood for Rzeczpospolita Polska (Republic of Poland) and Urząd Cenzury (Censor Bureau). The numbers range from 3001 to 3930 with 236 numbers used.



In late April 1946 a straight-line 4-digit number in the range 3001to3388 replaced the circular handstamps . 257 numbers were used. Many, but not all numbers are common to both the circular and straight-line handstamps.

Censorship was stopped at the end of October 1946.

#### **Canadian Philatelic Milestones**

The first Canadian stamp was issued April 23, 1851.

The three-pence beaver was also the first stamp in the world to depict an animal.

Canada's rarest stamp is the 1868 "Large Queen" on laid paper. There are only two know copies, both used, and their value is estimated at \$375,000 each.

The world's first Christmas stamp was the 1898 issue. "XMAS 1898" was inscribed over a map of the world with the British Empire identified in red, making it also the first multi-coloured stamp in the world.

The first Greetings stamps, allowing individuals to customize their stamps, were issued in January 1994 and the first picture postage stamps (personalized stamps)were issued in April 2000.

Canada Post has participated in, "October is Stamp Collecting Month" for more than a decade, promoting the hobby of stamp collecting to youth. What will you do this October to promote the hobby with young people?

#### ROYAL 2005 ROYALE

The GTAPA was well represented at the ROYAL in London, Ontario on the last weekend in May. There was a first class exhibition of about 92 exhibits that filled well over 300 frames.

Members of GTAPA clubs were as follows:

Frank Alusio: The Atom, vermeil

Frank Alusio: Victoria and the Penny Black, silver

Josh Hodgson: Registration Labels, bronze

Herb McNaught: Canada: 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Issue, vermeil

Ingo Nessel: Hong Kong King George VI Mails 1938-41, silver

**Ingo Nessel**: Canada Up-rated Postal Stationery 1954-74, bronze

Garfield Portch: Half-Cent Small Queen, vermeil Victor Skidra: WW1, German & Russian Occupation Stamps Used in Latvia, silver

**Frank Alusio** was also awarded the American Topical Association gold medal for *The Atom*.



Thanks go to **Robert Owczarz** for manning the GTAPA table at ROYAL 2005.



#### YEAR OF THE VETERAN

Scouts Canada supported the Year of the Veteran by distributing a beautiful crest throughout the veteran's community.



In June this year, four members of the West Toronto Stamp Club were recognized for their service in the Second World War.

Jack Lyons, an active Scouter and member of the Scouts on Stamps Club, presented the crest to Bill Bennett, Bruce Coleman, Ernie French and George MacLean.



#### Tools of the Trade

The duffer muffed his tee shot into the woods, then hit into a few trees, then proceeded to hit across the fairway into another woods. Finally, after banging away several more times, he proceeded to hit into a sand trap. All the while, he'd noticed that the club professional had been watching.

"What club should I use now?" he asked the pro. "I don't know," the pro replied. "What game are you playing?"





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