

Phila Journal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance



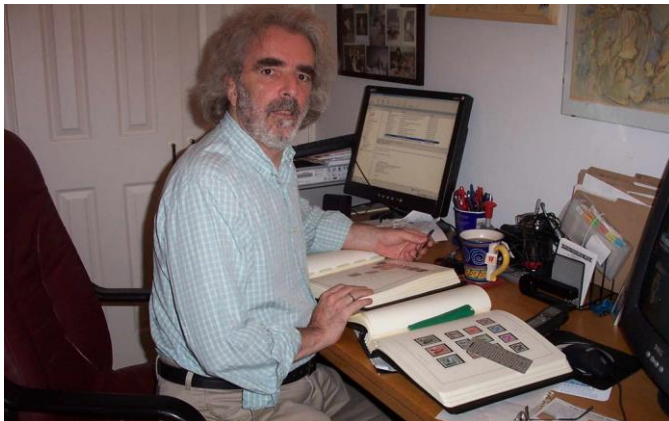
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Joining Stamp Club a Real Eye-Opener

By Joel Ruimy

When it comes to stamp clubs, Groucho Marx always spoke for me. "Please accept my resignation," he wrote in a telegram to the exclusive Friar's Club in Hollywood. "I don't want to belong to any club that will accept me as a member."



Groucho's reasons probably differed from mine. I have collected stamps for the last 30 years after reviving a childhood collection in my mid-20s. In all that time, I have acquired some intimidating notions about the kind of people who join stamp clubs.

They are a breed apart from the rest of us. Their holdings have names ("The Montague-Fromage Collection") and even their individual stamps have names (Hedgewick's 12d Black). They own so many great rarities that they probably use blocks of the \$5 Jubilee for bookmarks.

I've seen their material on exhibit at shows – vast arrays of gorgeous proofs, essays, specimens, imperfs, errors, and of course the just-right covers without the price penciled in. Up against all this, my modest collection of Canada and French Morocco, with its staggering number of covers incorrectly franked, seems paltry and unworthy.

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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
e-mail: pbutler@ilap.com

The Alliance meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at the V. G. Greene Research Foundation
10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto



Joining Stamp Club a Real Eye-Opener (cont)

Big anonymous stamp societies – now those were safe. I joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the American Philatelic Society, and the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (the U.S.-based one, not the one in the U.K.) over the past couple of decades. These were easy because it was all done by mail. Their journals were well-written, useful, and relevant to my collecting interests. And, again, there was nobody to look pityingly at my collection.

I also learned much over the years from some great dealers, including **Ian Kimmerly** in Ottawa and **Ted Wright** in Toronto. But many other mentor-dealers – **Joseph Reisz** in Montreal, **Jim Hennok** in Toronto, **Jim McIntosh** in Ottawa, and **Herb Rosenblatt** in Los Angeles – have long since joined that big stamp club in the sky.

This philatelic isolation could occasionally be difficult. When I'd find an especially attractive cover, I'd eagerly show it to my wife, who would smile indulgently and say she was happy for me. My sons collected stamps for about 15 minutes when they were kids. Now, at 18 and 21, they could hardly care less.

Things began to change earlier this year when I got a call from Peter Butler, president of the GTAPA. He had read a letter to the editor I wrote in the American Philatelist and invited me for coffee. We met and had an agreeable chat. At one point he asked: "Which club do you belong to?" In response, all I could do was shrug.

Downplaying my fears, he invited me to attend a meeting of the North Toronto Stamp Club. The North Toronto meets in a Baptist Church on the same night as choir practice, which offers the added bonus of comforting heavenly music wafting through the church basement while one learns about, and trades, stamps.

I looked around but I could find no sign at North Toronto of Montague-Fromage or Hedgewick. There were a lot of people called Ernie and Herb and Geoff and John – all people who struck me as having better things to do with a Jubilee block than use it as a bookmark. They all know a lot of stuff and they're all willing to share what they know.

I discovered that some longtime members have never exhibited before – like me. Many had, however, and they were leading a push to get novices into exhibiting by committing the club to a one-frame entry composed of 16 one-page exhibits by members.

I reluctantly signed up but I knew it was the right thing to do during one workshop, when I brought in the covers that would form the basis of my exhibit. I rose nervously to tell my fellow members about them – and was rewarded afterwards with appreciative comments, smiles, encouragement, and commendations. A person could get used to this.

The Club also has its own sales circuit – no need to wait for the mails. And I actually found some useful pieces – along with a few misidentified French stamps. Maybe I do know something about philately after all. There are usually at least a couple of dealers in attendance. One asked at my first meeting what I collected, and he brought some French Colonies to the next meeting. At another session, the club held an auction, where I picked up a couple of neat lots for a grand total of \$12. At yet another, **Ted Wright** gave a fascinating talk about early issues of Greece. Though not one of my areas, the talk was nonetheless interesting and useful.

Joining a club has led to another unexpected bonus: for decades, I had read about "machins" but only at the club did I learn how the word was pronounced. At least I had been pronouncing "perfins" properly.

Every other Thursday, I meet with a group of like-minded people who share a passion for stamps and who do serious – but never stuffy – study of a wide range of philatelic subjects. I learn things, I buy stamps, I enjoy the fellowship of fellow philatelists – and all for just \$15 a year in dues.

And it's nowhere near as intimidating as I had originally thought. Maybe Groucho was wrong.



GTAPA AFFILIATIONS

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PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

PhilaJournal is published four times a year, in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The *Journal* is distributed free of charge to members of stamp clubs that are affiliates of the Alliance.

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.

Permission is granted to reprint material from *PhilaJournal*, provided that appropriate credit is given to both *PhilaJournal* and the author.

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Subscription

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Advertising

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Rates

Space	1 issue	4 issues
ToonieAd (Up to 5 lines)	\$2.00	\$8.00
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This is the medium that keeps the members of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance in touch and informed.

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THE EDITOR'S SPACE

How time flies when you're having fun. It seems only yesterday that representatives of six stamp clubs in the GTA met at the invitation of Peter Butler. Little did we realize that we were giving birth to the GTAPA. I am personally thrilled to be writing the introduction to *PhilaJournal* number 17 – the 1st issue of the 5th year!

We are pleased to introduce new contributors in this issue. **Joel Ruimy** has written the lead story having been invited to join the North Toronto Stamp Club and being sufficiently pleased to write about his experience.

Herb Kucera returns to our pages presenting his experiences exhibiting in Vienna this summer.

Robert Pinet of North Toronto has written the first of what I hope will be a series of short postal history essays.

Philatelic Tips by **Charles Verge** will not always appear in the original sequence. We jumped to #13 in this issue because of space limits.


gjp

DEADLINE


The Winter Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of November. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the **end of October**.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

The **GTAPA** has just finished its fourth year of existence and a great four years it has been! We have accomplished much more than the founders ever imagined and it seems the more we do, the more initiatives we would like to take on. The Alliance has grown from six member clubs to ten and our individual membership is now close to 400. We have received accolades from every stakeholder group of the hobby and in the Greater Toronto Area, perhaps even beyond, we *have made* a difference.

It was this reflection several weeks ago, on our brief but busy history that I started thinking of what I wanted to say in my yearly address to the Board at the Annual General Meeting at the end of May. Here is a brief paraphrase of my presentation to the Board.

I don't suppose there are many individuals that have kept copies of every **PhilaJournal** since its inception as the GTAPA's newsletter in the Fall of 2002. I have and the collection has become a valuable commentary on our work, our growth and development, and the individuals who contributed to the success of the organization.

The Meeting Room of the Greene Foundation, where we hold our meetings, has exhibition frames mounted on three of the walls. In two of those frames, I posted issues 1 through 16 of **PhilaJournal**, for all to see graphically, the progress we have made.

Our first Editor was **Richard Weigand** and the first issue had over 20 pages. We were proud to announce the "Founding Six" clubs and we printed the Constitution and a photograph of the Founding Directors. *McGowan & Portch Insurance* was our first advertiser in fact, **Garfield Portch** split the bill with **Roy Haina** for the 250 copies we had printed of the first **PhilaJournal**. It was in the third issue that we welcomed the Bramalea Stamp Club. After that issue we asked Richard to try and make **PhilaJournal** more distinctive and to create a set of guidelines for how we thought the newsletter should evolve. Richard then invited **Frank Alusio** to take over the editorship who then created issue number four, which was visually, a more attractive publication with improved content as had been requested.

The lead articles in the next few issues gave a clear message that the GTAPA was on a mission. Along with the newly designed logo and masthead the following headings graced the front page of the next series of issues: *Why has the GTAPA Emerged?*, *Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society Joins*, *STAMPEX Revived*, *STAMPEX 2003 Great Success*, *The hobby makes a foray at the 50 Plus Show*. Frank's last issue was No.10, in which we announced that the Toronto Stamp Collector's Club had joined the Alliance, we had settled in at 16 pages per issue and our advertisers had grown to fifteen. In his last two issues **Frank Alusio** changed

the newsletter from a stapled, white paper publication to a saddle-stitched binding on a very attractive cream-coloured stock. In those two new-look issues, we welcomed the Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club on board and said goodbye to **Dorothy Attwell**, President of the East Toronto Stamp Club, who had put up a courageous fight against cancer. Her club's leaders had offered their trophies, no longer in use, to the Alliance to be used at STAMPEX. One would become a tribute to the memory of Dorothy.

Frank resigned shortly thereafter and turned over the reins to **Garfield Portch** who has capably created another "new-look" **PhilaJournal** that we all admire, enjoy and appreciate today. Garfield invited Ernie Nyitrai to take on the advertising portfolio and found a printer that has made all the difference in the world to the newsletter's appearance.

Since taking over **PhilaJournal**, Garfield asked that our publication pay homage to the writings of our members and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals in club-related work, of exhibit award winners and of special commitment to the goals of the Alliance. Our certificates of merit have been awarded at the Board Meetings or at club meetings by executive members and they have been announced in the newsletter. **Jerry Piotrowski**, **Gord Payne**, **Steve Johnson**, **Alana Pascual**, **Pat van der Heyden-Peers** and **Herb Kucera**, to name a few, have taken up the invitation to write articles. Now that STAMPEX has become a national show, we have included photos of award winners along with the show *palmares*. Garfield had the opportunity to meet and invite the tenth club to join our organization, the Ukrainian Collectables Society, which he wrote about in the last issue.

With this issue, Editor Portch has now created seven issues of **PhilaJournal**. We hope that his enthusiasm for the job and his plans for future issues means he will be leading our newsletter for many issues to come. He will be entering the 2006 issues in the American Philatelic Society's annual newsletter competition this Fall. We wish him well!

There are many announcements in the pages of **PhilaJournal** that I have not mentioned in the chronology of the first four years of issues. They are none-the-less significant to our history: the partnership created with the CSDA to make an annual Toronto exhibition a reality, the moving of our meetings to the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation as our permanent home, an annual presence at UNIPLEX, the cooperative ventures with the G.R.V.P.A., the involvement with the Stakeholders in Philately and the upgrade of our Toronto STAMPEX exhibition to national level, to name just a few.

PhilaJournal

I had a history teacher who taught us, "Those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it." Of course, the immediate understanding to us students was the needed to learn it to pass his exams. I'm sure he hoped that the broader meaning would come to us years later as a reason why it's important to know and respect the past. It gives direction and is the foundation of future success.

The Cheshire cat said to Alice, "If you don't know where you are going, any path will take you there." The GTAPA knows its history and values and respects it. As a result, we know where we are going. Perhaps it will be the road less traveled, and that **will make** all the difference.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Butler

GTAPA Board Announces the new Executive for 2006-2008.

All members of the Executive, as printed on the cover of the *PhilaJournal*, were re-elected by acclamation at the AGM. The following appointments were also approved by the Board:

- Editor of *PhilaJournal*, **Garfield Portch**
- Chair of STAMPEX Budget Committee, **Ernie Nyitrai**
- Chair of Alliance Publications, **Alena Pascual**
- Chair of the STAMPEX Planning Team, **Peter Butler**

STAMPEX Trophies Find a Home



Our six STAMPEX trophies have indeed found a permanent home. You will recall that four of them were donated to the Alliance by the East Toronto Stamp Club and beautifully refinished by **Jerry Piotrowski** of the Bramalea Stamp Club. The other two are, The *Stamp Collector* for the Club Challenge Award, and the Silver Bowl Youth Award, donated by **Michael Madesker**.

We thank **Ted Nixon**, the new Chairman of the Vincent G. Greene Foundation, for permission to display the

trophies on one of the rows of bookshelves in the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library. We recently had all the trophies engraved with the names of the STAMPEX '05 winners so it is opportune that we announce where they are now kept for all to view.

GTAPA to Visit American Philatelic Center

Arrangements have been confirmed for a group of Alliance members and friends to go on a three-day excursion to Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, the home of the American Philatelic Society on November 2, 3 and 4, 2006. Details of the trip and an application form to take part in this program are available from club presidents.

There are 47 seats on the bus that have been reserved for GTAPA members until September 27th at which time all available seats will be offered to other clubs. Further questions may be directed to **Peter Butler** at 416-690-4666 or pbutler@ilap.com

ROYAL*2007*ROYALE

The annual convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is fast approaching and will be held in Toronto on October 12, 13 and 14 of next year. As you know, the GTAPA will be hosting this exhibition and marketplace. The Planning Team will begin regular meetings following the Calgary ROYAL (Sept. 29 to October 1) and is in need of several people to assist various managers with specific responsibilities for the event. If you would be able to volunteer assistance in any one of the following areas, the Planning Team would be very grateful: Youth Area, Exhibits registration and frame organization, Publicity and/or Media relations, Presentations Coordinator, Greeters. Speak to your president about volunteering or call **Peter Butler** directly 416-690-4666.

Fund-Raiser Raffle for The ROYAL 2007

To raise the needed funds to hold this event, the GTAPA Board of Directors has approved the formation of a committee to organize a major raffle beginning this Fall and ending with "last chance" ticket sales just prior to the banquet on the Saturday evening. Details of this fund-raiser and the opportunities for the Alliance clubs to help in the sale of tickets, will be announced in September. Board members **Ernie Nyitrai**, **Elaine Skinner**, **Robert Owczarz** and **Garfield Portch** will coordinate the raffle.

Free for the Asking

Monthly copies of the Royal Mail magazine, *The Bulletin*, from 1979 to 2003 are available, free. Over 280 beautifully illustrated magazines in colour, stored in special binders and boxes supplied by Royal Mail, are yours for the asking. Contact Peter Butler to arrange viewing and/or pick-up at the Greene Foundation, 416-921-2077.

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Year 2004	+ 13.3%	+ 11.6%*
Year 2003	+ 26.8%	+ 19.2%*
Year 2002	+ 8.6%	- 6.4%*
Year 2001	+ 16.0%	- 8.2%*
Year 2000	+ 28.2%	- 2.4%*
Annualized 6 Year Return	+ 18.75%	+ 5.39%*

* Benchmark prior April 1, 2006 - 1/3 SM Bond index 2/3 TSX/S7P 60 Index

** Benchmark after April 1, 2006 - 10% SM Bond Index 65% TSX/S&P60 Index; 25% S&P Income Trust
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INDEPENDENT THINKING



Carabram Ukraine Pavilion's Philatelic and Numismatic Exhibit

by Mark Stelmacovich

I knew nothing about 'Carabram' or exhibiting stamps until my first experience of an event that has now completed its 9th year! It took place in Brampton (northwest of Toronto) during the weekend of July 7 to 9. Our 'collectibles' group was asked if we would like to partake by way of chairing a booth with exhibition frames. We eagerly accepted this, our first such effort in some time.

The Ukrainian Collectibles Society (UPNS Toronto chapter and GTAPA member) had recently 'reconstituted' itself after several years of inactivity, meeting the first Monday of each month this past year. Last May, **Dr. Ron Zelonka**, a long-time UPNS member and now a Trident Overprints expertizer, came forward with the idea of participating in Carabram, a multicultural affair organized through 'pavilions'.

Well, it was quite a show, a three-day event with several pavilions to visit, through which one could absorb the best that each ethnic community had to offer, both culturally and otherwise! In our case, there was traditional cuisine dishes and libation to choose from, dance and musical performances, a display featuring one of Ukraine's most significant 20th century cultural promoters, namely **Vasyl Avramenko**, and booths that highlighted culture-specific goods, crafts, and arts. Our booth included four frames specific to three themes. **Jerry Kalyn**, our president, organized a numismatic banknote display from 1917-20. **Ron Zelonka** arranged a chronological classic-era cover display from 20th century Ukraine's various governments and diaspora, with yours truly completing the same featuring a stamp display.

Surprised by the interest that patrons both young and old showed in our exhibit, we certainly helped open up eyes to the depth of our cultural heritage. Many mentioned that they were completely unaware of Ukraine's rich diversity as demonstrated through stamps, banknotes and coins, this despite the brevity of the various Ukrainian entities during the early 20th century. And, it was not just Canadians of Ukrainian heritage who were interested, but many others who found the display enlightening. We also ran a survey for those passing by our booth to choose Ukraine's best stamp of 2005, and whose results we will submit to UPNS. A number of volunteers from other pavilions noticed our display and planned to do something similar next year! This is what we found so rewarding; knowing that through our hobby, we may have not only opened up eyes, preserving and promoting our cultural background, but that we may also have turned others onto philately and numismatics, even if just a little bit in both cases! Both Ron and Jerry provided free material from their stocks, beautiful tokens of thanks for the many that stopped by to say hello! The kids were most excited to say the least.



Left to right, Ron Zelonka, beautiful dancer 1, Jerry Kalyn, beautiful dancer 2, Mark Stelmacovich. The girls are from the Volyn Ukrainian Song & Dance Company who performed at the Carabram show.

Sunday, being the final day, was indeed a day of good fortune for the pavilion, in a sense through another's misfortune, proving that for every black cloud, there can be found a silver lining. Ukrainian dancing shows were a highlight for everyone visiting our pavilion, and no wonder, this year's theme was 'celebrating 80 years of Ukrainian dance'. There were three excellent shows a day by our local dance ensemble 'Vatra' (meaning 'Bonfire'), involving a variety of age groups, all performing in traditional dress. If that was not enough, a bonus! A professional dance and band ensemble from Volyn, Ukraine packed two shows on Sunday. Their performance can be summed up in a nutshell as spectacular! Just wonderful and beautiful! These unfortunate people had apparently been left high and dry, allegedly after a promoter of their Canadian tour abandoned them. And so, the Ukrainian community pitched in to help out as best they could, such as through this effort at our pavilion, and thus explaining my comparison to clouds and gold. Interestingly, I noticed that many of these dancers from Ukraine visited our booth, also expressing interest. Don't forget, for quite some time, collections involving cultural identity were indeed discouraged by the Soviet government, and so many Ukrainian eyes may only now be opening as well.

Can we say our volunteer efforts were 'worth it'? Time and energy well spent if one values both the net benefit of collecting and the promotion of culture. Personally, it was an excellent experience for three reasons. First, already mentioned as being the first time I exhibited, this was a good learning experience. Second, it was great to team up with two other colleagues who are great 'team players'! Finally, the entire event was fun. Cheers, and perhaps we'll see you next time!

CLUB NEWS & ACTIVITIES

BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

Meets the **1st Sunday** (from 2 to 4 pm), October to June and the **3rd 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 Email r.thorne@sympatico.ca

Check out our web site at:
www.bramaleastampclub.com

The officers of the club for the upcoming year are:

Bob Thorne President and GRVPA & GTAPA representative

Geoff Green Treasurer

Paul Nicholls Membership

Steve Johnson Webmaster & GRVPA reporter (also GRVPA webmaster)

Paul Williams Sales books manager

Ingo Nessel GRVPA representative

Jerry Piotrowski GTAPA representative

Ron Feero Bourse chairman

Tuesday night meetings will continue to have a theme assigned to them. At the June 20th meeting members chose the following topics for the next 12 months.

2006	
Sept 19	Military
Oct	No Tuesday meeting
Nov 21	Oddball items
Dec 19	Santa
2007	
Jan 16	Soccer
Feb 20	Provinces
Mar 20	50 cents
Apr 17	Red
May 15	Stamp values vs. catalogues
June 19	Overprints

Sunday meetings will be back starting October 1. Members have been busily preparing auction lots that master auctioneer **Bob Thorne** will offer to all comers at those Sunday meetings.

Congratulations to **Steve Johnson** who was awarded a Vermeil at ORAPEX for his exhibit "Yukon Airways". Steve also received the Reserve Airmail Award.

Several club members eagerly await the arrival of **Henry Vanden Top** at each meeting. Henry has access to hundreds of pieces of business mail each week from a couple of sources (all with current stamps) which he sells for the just a nickel apiece.

Each person seems to have a different thing they are looking for. Bob looks for machine cancels, Jerry has started accumulating postmarks with names of birds, fish and animals in the postmark (although he admits that right now he really doesn't know what he is going to do with them). Others might look for cancellations from a particular province, postage due or other unusual markings, or colour variations in the stamps themselves. There is always a lot of "Hey Jerry here's another one with a bear" or "Bob, did you see this?"

Sometimes in these lots there are the oddball items such as the covers with a one cent coin taped to it instead of an additional one cent stamp when postal rates increase, or the "mixed franking" items using Canadian and US stamps to make up the rate. Or even the odd cover with a label of some sort instead of a valid Canadian stamp.

The items that do not sell at the club get bundled into lots of 100 that Henry sells at a flea market. All monies raised are donated to missionary work.

IN MEMORIAM

Laurie Despres

After a brief battle with cancer, long time Bramalea Stamp Club member and Club Sales Books Manager Laurie Despres passed away on June 12 2006.

As well as managing the club sales books for many years, Laurie also found time to be an active member of the Lions Club, serve as a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society and as a volunteer for the Salvation Army. He also found time to get in a few rounds of golf.

At the February 2004 Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show Laurie was awarded the first Certificate of Merit issued by the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance (GTAPA) in recognition of his services as sales books manager. Laurie's family proudly displayed it for all to see at the funeral home.

Jerry Piotrowski



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



INSURANCE & BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September to June. Meetings are held in the offices of Canaccord Capital Corporation, 29th floor, 161 Bay Street (BCE Place) in Toronto.



NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

The North Toronto Stamp Club holds its meeting at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Yonge Street at Heath Street, on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Sept. 14 Clothes line exhibit
Saturday Sept. 16 -NTSC Fall Bourse
Sept. 28 Garfield Portch ½ c Small Queens
Oct. 12 Robert Pinet Refugee Mail
Oct. 26 Fall floor auction
Nov. 9 and 23 speakers to be announced
Saturday Nov 18 – NTSC Winter Bourse
In December we have a social gathering over dinner

Contact John Wilson, wilsonjn@sympatico.ca, for details or go to the North Toronto website.

Visitors are always welcome and coffee and cookies are provided. Membership is \$15 per year. E-mail us at ntstampclub@yahoo.ca!



NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June (July & August, 3rd 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, auctions, sales circuit, and a number of dealer members. Membership is \$10 per year. Ample free parking. NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada as well as the GTAPA.

For more information about the North York Philatelic Society, contact Mike Turk at (905) 731-8380 or via e-mail at turkm@accessv.com.



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 14, Mississauga, ON L4X 2S3 Canada.

"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 the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance.

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 has 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 bzygmunt@hotmail.com

" IV Polish – Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2007", the next club's annual show will take place on March 4, 2007, at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario. For more info contact "Troyak" Executive Team by telephone or e-mail.

“Troyak” next meetings are: September 24, 2006; October 29, 2006; November 26, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments are always available. Club issues monthly info/bulletin on its website and also publishes bulletin for the members who attend club meetings. For more information, contact: Ignac K. at 905-273-5561 or, Wieslaw G. at 416-258-1651 or Janusz M. at 647-400-7857 www.troyakclub.cominfo@troyakclub.com New members are always welcome.



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 required dress code at the RCMI.

For more information contact **John Talman** at 416-363-9997 or by email at jtalman@interlog.com



SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB

The Scarborough Stamp Club announces the dates for their Fall meetings: September 5 & 19, October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21, December 5 (a second December date, to be announced, will be the Annual Christmas Party).

October 17th **Favourite Cover Night** - Bring a cover to “Show and Tell”.

November 21st **UK's Machin Stamps** - Tony Mason will lead a discussion on this great series of definitive stamps.

Out-of-towners call Rick Howard (416-778-4175) to confirm the program.

The first Tuesday of each month will continue to be a general trading night. The third Tuesday will be devoted to a brief business meeting followed by an auction. Special guest speakers may be held on either night. Members of other clubs and visitors new to the hobby or experienced collectors, are always welcome to attend meetings.

The doors are open at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 East Park Blvd., (Lawrence and Markham area) in Scarborough. For more information call **Doug Cockburn** at 416-757-4072

UKRAINIAN COLLECTIBLES SOCIETY (TORONTO)

Society meetings are held the first Monday of every month. Attend and meet people with similar interests.

For information call Jerry Kalyn at 416-251-6898. We meet at:

**Ukrainian Canadian Social Services
2445 Bloor Street West, Toronto**



WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Activities are held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm, from September to June, at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke (3 blocks south of Bloor St. West, and 2 blocks east of Islington Ave.).

Membership Dues: \$20 per year, for new members
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- Study Group Sessions • Guest Speakers •
- Dealers Tables • Exhibitions •

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

The new season promise to be another active one. Auctions continue to be the main activities. There will be guest speakers enlightening the members on various aspects of the hobby; Single-page, Non competitive and One-frame exhibitions. Other activities may include work-shops, show-and-tell and others requested by members.

Members of GTAPA affiliated Clubs are welcomed

The 2005-2006 season ended with the 52nd edition of the Everett Drake Trophy One-Frame competition. The top three exhibitors were:

Member	Exhibit
Victor Skidra	German Occupation of Latvia 1941-1945-Ostland Era
Denzil Fernandes	British India-Early Mail Cancellation QV Postal Stationery
Aulis Narhi	Stamps of Aland

These members will represent West Toronto at the next Club Challenge Award inter-club competition,



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PHILATELIC TIPS

by Charles J. G. Verge, FRPSC, FRPSL

(This series of tips was originally published in The Brigham Auction catalogues starting in April 2000. Some have been revised).

Philatelic Tip #13: Doubtful items - Do your homework.

Collect Canada? Join us and enjoy the opportunities we can offer:

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<http://bnaps.org/form.htm>

For more information:

Peter Jacobi, Secretary
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CANADA V4A 9W4

In a 2003 European auction there was a 12d. Black on cover being offered for sale with two certificates attached to it. Now as someone who has a particular interest in this stamp on cover, I found it interesting that I had no information on this cover in my files. So I went looking. After an extensive search I didn't find a shred of information although the other six known covers are well documented. If this one is good why can't I find anything about it? It doesn't mean there can't be new find but it is a good indication that further research must be done. After hours of searching, I finally found it listed in a definitive study of the Pence stamps and its era but with no provenance. So I sent an e-mail to the authors. One sent a reply saying it's a fake and is listed in the book by mistake and that the Vincent Graves Green Philatelic Research Foundation (VGG) had adjudged it a fake. I then found out from the VGG that although the cover was genuine and so was the stamp, the stamp didn't belong to the cover and the cancel was a fake. So once again, I encourage you to do your homework before buying.

UNUSUAL POSTAGE STAMPS

Jerry Piotrowski

Three souvenir sheets issued by Poland in the early years following World War 2 (Scott B49c, 412a and C26d) used a process other than watermarked paper as a security measure. These souvenir sheets printed by Courvoisier in Switzerland used tiny blue and red silk threads in the paper, which can be seen, scattered randomly throughout the paper.

The United States Postal Service used a different security technique when it issued its first self-adhesive stamp in October 1974 as a Christmas issue. This stamp known as the Dove Weathervane (Scott 1550) was inscribed Precancelled meaning that added postal cancellations were not required, a feature that was expected to speed mail processing during the Christmas rush. The stamp had a cross cut at the centre, which would cause the stamp to disintegrate if it were peeled from an envelope in an attempt to reuse it. The adhesive used on these stamps was such that they could not be soaked off envelopes.

In March 1963 the German Democratic Republic issued a souvenir sheet containing two stamps publicizing "Chemistry for Peace and Socialism". This item was printed on ungummed synthetic tissue. The item is mentioned in Scott but has no number assigned to it. It is however listed in Michel Deutschland Spezial as numbers 950/1 and Block 18.

Embroidery threads were again used for postage stamp manufacture. This time in Austria with the issue of 3.75 euro stamp. This value fulfills two Austrian postal rates, worldwide priority mail of 50 to 100 grams and the domestic rate for items between 1 and 2 kilogram. Although Austrian stamps are usually inscribed Österreich this stamp has the country name shown as Austria, a practice that has recently been used from time to time.

On March 24th of this year Austria issued a 3.50 euro souvenir sheet that could be called out of this world. After being printed, the stamp has meteorite dust from a 19-kilogram meteorite applied to it by a specially developed method.

The first article on the topic of unusual stamps mentioned several "scratch and sniff" issues. **Peter Butler** recently gave me four Russian stamps from 2003 scented with apple, pear, strawberry and pineapple aromas. Also in the area of scented stamps are the apple and pine scents on Iceland's recent Christmas stamps.

Aland, (a self governing province of Finland) on October 10 2005 issued a Christmas stamp with a twinkle. This 0.45 euro stamp has hologram stars twinkling in the background. February of this year saw two stamps honouring a pair of Dutch skating legends when the Netherlands issued stamps using lenticular



technology. Printed on plastic, the process allows the simulated effect of the skaters in motion as the stamp is moved through different angles. Lenticular technology has been used on stamps before modern techniques allow for much finer detail.

Other recent issues that warrant mention are the items prepared by Great Britain and the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. One stamp in each countries issue is special. Wood taken from HMS Victory during repairs was ground down into a fine powder and fixed to an image of the ship on the stamp itself, highlighting the hull, masts and spars.

Thank you to **Alena Pascual** and **Peter Butler** for providing references from Linns Stamp News, Scott Stamp Monthly and other sources for some of the items mentioned above.

If anyone else has information on other unusual issues please forward your information to **Jerry Piotrowski**, 74 Glenmore Cres., Brampton Ontario L6S 1H8 or email to jerrypiotrowski74@hotmail.com using unusual stamps in the subject heading.

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Visiting Mozartphila in Salzburg

A Look At A Stamp Exhibition Outside North America

Herb Kucera

Salzburg is an interesting city. It is full of tourists at all times of the year. English is spoken everywhere, as well as Italian, Japanese and everything else under the sun. The public transit system is amazing. All the buses in the downtown core run on electricity, which is very quiet and very clean. The overhead wires do not seem to detract from the overall impression of the city.

Another very positive impression was the bus stops in downtown Salzburg. They consisted of a column on which all the bus lines for the stop were listed. But in addition to listing the lines, there was another bit of information for each line stopping there, giving the arrival of the next bus for that line in minutes. This was always correct. I do not know how it works, but I suspect it is tied into the system of wires feeding the motor of each bus. It was nice to know whether the bus was expected in two minutes or in fifteen minutes.

The city owes its origins to the salt mines in the nearby areas, which have been mined since the Celtic period, long before the Roman occupation. In the middle Ages the Bishops of Salzburg took control of the mining operations and made the church wealthy.

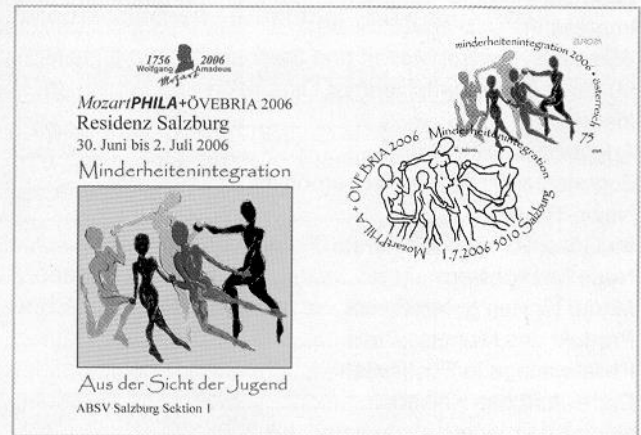
The structure, which dominates the landscape is the fortress of Hohensalzburg, located on a craggy hillside right next to downtown. It can be reached by a unique railway consisting of two passenger compartments with a capacity of about fifty persons each. The cabs are connected with a cable, and when one reaches the top, the bottom compartment is filled with water, while the other, at the bottom, has the water drained from it. The car with the full water tank, being the heavier one, pulls the other to the top, where the process is repeated. Of course, the speed of the cars is regulated.

There is another mountain nearby, the top of which is reached by a high-speed elevator. From there one can enjoy a view of the entire city. A fine restaurant and a museum are also located at the top of this mountain called "Moenchsberg".

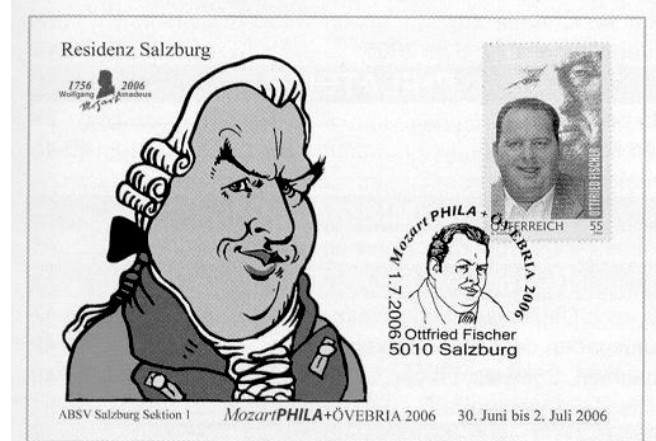
Another interesting tourist attraction is a little outside the city itself at "Schloss Hellbrunn". This castle and the surrounding park are the work of one of the archbishops of Salzburg, who had quite a sense of humour. There are tours of the park all day long and it is difficult to avoid the waterspray during this tour. Hint: Stay at spots where the earth is dry! Even unassuming stag antlers will get you wet. In the castle itself is a museum with historical displays and many pieces of art.

A few kilometers from this castle is one of the Salt Mines, which made this region so famous. There are tours into the mine, which is no longer producing salt. The method of salt production consists of forming

caverns with water connections into and out of them. Water is pumped into the caverns, where it leaches the salt out of the rock. When the water inside the cavern is saturated with salt, the brine is let out through the lower pipe into the valley. There the water is removed by evaporation and the salt is ready for sale.



Now, to the exhibition itself: It was held in one of the rooms of the "Residenz", an ornate building in the centre of the city of Salzburg and was originally built as the home of the Archbishop of Salzburg. To get to the room in which the exhibition was held, one had to cross the courtyard, where major construction was taking place. It was necessary to walk the perimeter of the courtyard at the back of which was the entrance to the exhibition hall.



The exhibition rooms were on the second floor, and there must have been about sixty steps to get up to it. These steps were considerably wider than normal, about 50-60 centimeters in width. Walking up and down on these steps was far less difficult than on our type of steps. At the time the building was erected, there were no elevators or escalators known, but it seems that with the wide steps it should be relatively easy to install escalators here. However, that would take away much of the charm.

At the top of the stairs was a foyer with a couch and a table. As smoking was prohibited in the hall itself, those who needed a smoke were allowed to do so here. The exhibition was housed in two adjacent rooms with very ornate ceiling frescos. The far room was furnished with a speakers' podium and several rows of chairs, obviously intended for the festivities connected with the official first day ceremonies for the four stamps issued during the exhibition. It shows a high level of cooperation between the exhibition committee and Austria Post. At certain times the artists who designed the stamps were available to sign covers etc.

The second, slightly larger room housed the exhibits, as well as booths and tables for the dealers and postal services. Representing postal services was Austria Post, the UN Offices in Vienna and the Deutsche Post. Booths were located on the window side while tables were arranged on the other three sides of the room. A special table was available for youth activities. This left the centre for the display of the exhibits. In the middle, opposite the entrance were two tables and several chairs for the use of the visitors for franking and special show cancels. Four new stamps were issued during the three days of the exhibition and a separate first-day cancel was used for each one of them.

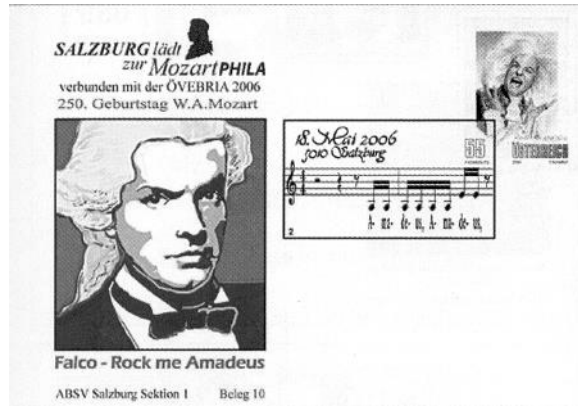


The room itself was a little cramped for the number of frames. It was nearly impossible for two people to pass each other between the frames. Being used to Canadian types and sizes of frames, I found myself in a quandary when I realized the frames could only hold twelve pages and not sixteen. When I spoke to the exhibition chairman, he pointed out that sufficient frames were available for my 96 pages.

The judges were seen scurrying about Friday and Saturday, doing their work, but there was no sign of ribbons like at home. Instead, a Palmares was held on Saturday evening at a nearby restaurant.

After getting all dressed up, my wife and I walked to the bus stop near the hotel but no buses were to be seen in either direction. Driving to the city centre was out of the question, we did not know the way, nor would it have been possible to park anywhere near the place. So we decided to start walking. After ten minutes we arrived at the next bus stop and found a

taxi waiting for a fare. As we were driven to the square, we discovered the reason for the lack of public transit: there had been a huge parade by young people, which required all busses to stop running. Sadly, I was not familiar with the location of the restaurant, and asked the cab driver to take us to the square where I had seen the name of the restaurant and an arrow where it was. To our surprise, we had to walk up a steep hill and then around the corner, where we saw another sign in the distance, telling us it was only sixty more paces and still uphill! When we finally reached the door of the restaurant, we were told the philatelic festivities are on the second floor. Almost out of breath by now, we pulled ourselves together once more and found the hall.



This hall was so large, that I wished they had held the exhibition there, but on second thought, the climb might have discouraged the visitors to the show. Not even the dealers would have been happy with it. We sat down at a large round table for ten, and soon the drinks and food arrived. Everything was a la carte. While we were eating and drinking, two choirs and a harp player provided musical entertainment. At the end of the meal came the awarding of the prizes.



The medals consisted of a CD with music by Mozart and imprinted with the name of the exhibitor, the title of the exhibit and the level of medal. A certificate was also awarded with many exhibitors receiving special "Honor" prizes.

Editor's Note: We congratulate Herb who was awarded a Silver Medal for his exhibit of the Postal Markings of Vienna.

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A Spanish Civil War Cover

Robert Pinet



On July 18, 1936, Generals in the Spanish Army started a rising against a Republican government made up of left Liberals, Socialists, Communists and Anarchists. The Spanish Civil War (1936-39), “a war of atrocities and political genocide and a military testing ground before the Second World War for the Russians, Italians and Germans, whose Condor Legion so notoriously destroyed Guernica”(1) had begun.

This cover, to the Director of S.E.R.E. (*Servicio de Evacuación de Refugiados Españoles* [Spanish Refugee Evacuation Service], 94 rue Saint Lazare, 2o, Paris XXe, bears a 1939 “Peace with Olive Branch” ‘F’ 90 Frank stamp (Scott S1), for the use of Spanish Refugee soldiers in France. ‘F’ stands for “fugitive” or refugee. It is postmarked with two Pamiers, Ariège c.d.s.s, dated 11-8-39. The reverse has the address Rte. Manuel Gutierrez, Campo [Camp] No. 1, Barraca [Barracks] 3F, Vernet, Ariège.

The Communist-dominated S.E.R.E. was formed by the Negrin government in March 1939, when their defeat seemed inevitable. Already, by the

beginning of February of that year, 300,000 Spaniards had gathered at various French border points; by April, when Franco’s forces had triumphed, they numbered 450,000.

At first, the camps were expanses of sand of 1 hectare, surrounded by barbed wire. During the first four months, thousands perished from hunger, cold and disease.(2) On March 2, General Ménard began construction of camp barracks in the south of France. (3) Besides Le Vernet, there were 12 other refugee camps in France, 8 in Algeria, and 3 in Tunisia.(4)

Le Vernet held up to 12,000 “radical” military refugees – Communists and Anarchists – including the well-known Anarchist Durrutti Division. Later, in the Second World War, it was to serve as a Vichy concentration camp for French Jews.

References: (1) Beevor, Anthony. (2001). *The Spanish Civil War*. London, England: Penguin Books. (2) Marrus, Michael. (1985). *The Unwanted: European Refugees in the Twentieth Century*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. (3) Peschanski, Denis. (Nov. 2000). *La France des Camps: L’Internement 1938-46*. Paris: Gallimard.; (4) Marrus, *op. cit.*

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