

Phila Journal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance



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Stamp Collectors in Toyland!

Early in the morning of November 2, 2006 a group of GTAPA Club members, spouses and guests from Kitchener, 22 persons in all, climbed aboard a tour bus and headed for Bellfonte, PA. We knew that the object of the exercise was a visit to the new headquarters of the American Philatelic Society, but we had no idea of the real adventure in store for us.



The bus ride was smooth, enjoyable and uneventful. The passage through U.S. Customs was delightfully rapid after the inspector decided that a load of stamp collectors does not constitute a national threat. The snow encountered south of Buffalo was the only evil encounter en route. When we arrived at the APS headquarters the real fun began.

A greeting committee provided a warm welcome as we disembarked and stretched our legs. The first order of the day was a coffee and cookies reception and a formal welcome by **Peter Mastrangelo** (Executive Director) followed by a familiarization tour of the Philatelic Center.

Dinner was served by a local catering firm that provided all four lunches and dinners during our stay. One can only say that the food was delicious and more than was really needed by weight watchers. Meals were accompanied by an interesting selection of wines that were, with great foresight by all, purchased at the Duty Free en route.

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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:

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e-mail: pbutler@ilap.com

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

WEB SITE

www.gtapa.org



Stamp Collectors in Toyland (cont)

Following dinner, we boarded the bus to retire to our accommodations at the Holiday Inn.

The real program began Friday morning with a talk "Worldwide Stamp Identification" by **Robert Lamb**.

Other seminars presented for our benefit included such diverse titles as:

- *Tips & Tricks for Scanning Stamps* by **Barb Boal**
- *ABC's of American Philatelic Expertizing* by **Mercer Bristow**
- *Introduction to Worldwide Forgeries* by **Bill Dixon**
- *The Process of Expertizing* by **Mercer Bristow**

Throughout the day, we enjoyed the opportunity to visit and make full use of the massive research library. The Sales Division, with \$2.5 million in stock was a regular destination for everyone.

It was announced at Friday's lunch that the APS was offering a financial incentive to attract new members to the APS. When one of our members accepted the offer, he received an added bonus in the form of a big hug from **Dana Guyer** (Shows & Exhibits). Fourteen new memberships were taken out by our group.



Dana Guyer gives "Hugs for New APS Memberships"

At Friday's dinner, we were honoured, greeted and entertained by **Bill Welch**, the Mayor of State College and a former Director of the APS.

Saturday was a morning of relaxed attendance at the library and/or sales centre with everyone trying to grab maximum advantage of the time available.

We departed Bellefonte early Saturday afternoon for the trip home. It was obvious by the number of snoozing passengers that the tour was exhausting in a most pleasant manner. The return trip featured dinner in a brew pub in Ellicottville, NY. Many of us sampled some interesting local brews in combination with substantial pub fare. Prior to re-boarding the bus, many of the group also visited a candy store that was a chocolate addict's dream.

With swift and painless passage through Canada Customs, the conversation on the bus turned toward planning a repeat trip and expressing condolences to those who did not join the trip this time. Here is a sampling of comments expressed by some attendees:

This trip exceeded all my hopes and expectations.

John Aitken

What a great trip! Lots of information and wonderful handouts. Very friendly and helpful.

Doris Lowry

Food, Fun, Friends, Philately: all were present in spades. The crowning touch, though was how well constructed the trip was – balanced, timely, varied. When are we going back?

George Pepall

Visit exceeded all expectations – the Centre is a great example of what can be the outcome of an enthusiastic worthwhile dream! WOW!

Jack & Marg Lyons

Kim, Dana and Becky were of great help – and fun too. Shopping was also great in Altoona.
anon

FABULOUS!!

Frank & Mary Lock

The fellowship of the group was wonderful!

Paul Nicholls

Best time I have had in a long time. The APS site is a gem. The staff treated me royally.

Michel Houde

Really worth while. Beautifully executed

Murray Heifetz

What a great opportunity to find all those answers to my questions about my collecting interests.

Herb Letsche

Very enjoyable, well organized, profitable philatelic week end. The planned meals added to comradery and made much better use of time.

Jim Oliver

The trip was enjoyable as the company was great and the APS facility well worth visiting – especially the library.

Neil Hunter

Great trip, met great people, will come back next trip. Had a great time and learned some new things about some stamps.

Ralph Blunk

Thank you Peter for organizing this trip. You provided outstanding service for all of us.

Garfield Portch

PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

PhilaJournal is published quarterly, 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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Ernie Nyitrai at 905-477-1511
e-mail: enyitr618@rogers.com

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1/4 page	\$25.00	\$90.00
1/2 page	\$45.00	\$165.00
Full page (7-1/2" x 10")	\$90.00	\$325.00
Banner (1" x 5", front page)	\$25.00	\$100.00

Your feedback is important to us. If anyone has any philatelic item for publication, or any suggestions to improve *PhilaJournal*, 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.

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THE EDITOR'S SPACE

Holy cow! Another year has gone.

I want to take this opportunity to express best wishes to all our readers for the upcoming holiday season. Enjoy your festivities in happiness and safety.

Kudos to GTAPA for providing two huge services for the general membership in the last quarter of 2006. The opening of STAMPEX to club exhibitors bodes well for grass roots collectors and the trip to Bellfonte was a meaningful exercise.

Robert Pinet of North Toronto has written another of what promises to be a series of fascinating postal history essays.

Philatelic Tips by **Charles Verge** is given a double exposure in this issue as the two tips are closely connected. These tips serve to reinforce previous advice to invest in books.

We are pleased to present our first article of foreign origin. The Post office of South Africa has submitted the story behind the stamp issue of World Post Day. The Senior Manager, Johan van Wyk has a tag line on his e-mail that is worth repeating: "*When did you have that warm, fuzzy feeling from receiving an e-mail – write a letter.*"

gjp

DEADLINE

The Spring Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of February. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the **31st of January**.

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ROYAL 2007 ROYALE

is coming to
STAMPEX 2007

Please contact your club representative
or
call Peter Butler directly
to volunteer your services.

Messages from the President

Protecting Club Lists

As a member of two of the stamp clubs in the Alliance and two other clubs outside our group, I have always been interested to note the differences in how clubs and their members respond to the production, or not, of membership lists of addresses and phone numbers. Usually, club executives confer with members on their wishes about the gathering, printing and distribution of membership lists, then decide on a plan of action. Clubs do vary on procedures and that probably is a good thing, but my concern, however, is not what is distributed but what happens to the information afterwards.

The reasons for creating the lists in the first place are in support of the ideas that members need to be able to contact each other about trading or selling philatelic material, researching or requesting information or borrowing books or catalogues to help with organizing their collections. Arranging rides or asking for volunteers at the next show are also easier to arrange when members share addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. There is often a concern raised, however, about the list being used for more than it was intended and the reckless sharing of information with others having no right to access the information.

In today's highly electronic world, obtaining information about where others live and getting phone numbers and postal codes is very simple. Bell Directories and the Yellow Pages are a thing of the past because using the internet makes finding the information easier and a whole lot faster. If you haven't used **411.ca** yet, give it a try, and if you have never "**Googled**" your own name, you may be shocked to see what the world can find out about you by doing the same thing! That's the reality of today's world of communications and the seeking of information electronically. The bottom line is that if someone wants to find out your address and phone number, it's easy to do. All they need is your name.

I'm not trying to be an alarmist here. I am trying to be a realist. The listing of club members and their addresses and phone numbers is not the issue. The issue is the directions given to members on how the lists should be handled. For example, never leave them lying around at meetings, shows or other venues where members congregate. When new lists are created, make sure old lists are shredded or carefully torn up. We have heard stories of lists being found in garbage cans or tossed carelessly into recycling bins for others to "recycle." They should, of course, never be photocopied and shared with anyone whose business depends on phone or door-to-door canvassing.

Two of the clubs I belong to create a total listing of addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses along with collecting interests. Another club lists only a phone number and includes a mailing address only if the person wishes it. The fourth club does not issue any lists. Next time a discussion arises on what your club

should publish, please make sure the discussion focuses on the real not the perceived issues, and make sure the distribution and eventual disposal is done properly.

One last thought. I have recently received several long lists of e-mail addresses from stamp show organizers and club presidents requesting all the addressees to consider exhibiting at their next show. Potentially, this is a dangerous practice that can only lead to abuse and even illegal activity on the part of hackers. There is nothing wrong with sending such requests to other exhibitors/collectors but one really should use the "Bcc:" option when doing so. What's the Bcc option you may ask... as I did?

When you click on "Send" to send an e-mail, you will find the cursor blinking on the "To:" space for you to add the name of the receiver of your message. If it is to be a list of receivers, you usually would add their names to the list also. However, if you click on the "To:" box, you will see a new screen come up called, "Select Names." Down the left margin you will see: To: (message to) Cc: (carbon copy) and Bcc: (blind carbon copy). If you click the first name and then "To:" the name will be seen in the usual box. If you click the second name then the "Bcc" box, that name and all succeeding names, will not be shown in either the "To" or the "Cc" boxes, but they will get your message.

In essence, you have sent the message to many people but their e-mail address does not appear with the message. You have, therefore, prevented all the e-mail addresses from being copied, which in turn, prevents others from getting new addresses for SPAM purposes. It is a good idea, if you use this procedure, to mention in the body of your message that the message has been sent to many exhibitors across the country/province.

Once again, you have used your computer wisely to prevent abuse, and once again, you have made communication easier but taken the necessary precautions.

Society magazines available

At the V.G.Greene Foundation, we have accumulated several boxes of magazines from that the library and from donations that are duplicates and, therefore, not needed. Storage is at a premium so rather than dispose of them by recycling, we would like to pass them on to collectors. If any of these magazine collections appeal to you, please call me with dates/numbers that you are looking for. I will return calls to confirm availability and to make arrangements for pick-up. We are not able to ship magazines.

Presently we have copies of BNA Topics (BNAPS), Postal History Journal (PHSC), The Canadian Philatelist (RPSC) and The Bulletin, (Royal Mail, UK) available.

Machin Study Group

With the 40th anniversary of the first issuing of the Machin definitives of the UK coming up next year, there

is increased interest in the stamps and the collections that are possible from the many thousands of issues and varieties that have been printed since 1967. Following the presentation on the Machins at the meeting of the Scarborough Stamp Club on November 21st, those in attendance were asked if there was any interest in creating a ***Machin Study Group***. Interested members of Alliance clubs will be contacted to see if a meeting of Machin collectors can be organized and possibly bi-monthly sessions could be arranged. If you are interested in attending such a study group, please give me a phone call or send an e-mail to have your name added to the list. More information will be forthcoming. An inaugural meeting will be set-up for some time in January, location T.B.A. There are many Machin Study Groups in Canada and around the world. Perhaps hooking up with some of them could prove very valuable in extending collections and trading material.

Peter Butler

Unusual Postage Stamps

Jerry Piotrowski

"Thar's gold in them thar hills!" was the shout popularized in many movies dealing with the gold rush days. Well, the New Zealand Post recently issued a stamp with which collectors can yell "Thar's gold on them thar stamps!" The New Zealand Post has hidden nuggets of gold on a 45-cent stamp commemorating New Zealand's gold rush years. The stamp, which was printed using a thermographic ink, shows a prospector panning for gold. When the pan is rubbed the heat produced changes the ink so that gold nuggets are revealed. Once the ink cools the original appearance returns. Only the 45-cent stamp in the set is printed using this technology.

A previous write-up on unusual stamps mentioned the Russian stamp with text printed on the reverse. Portugal used the gum side of some of its issues to describe the designs on the face of the stamps. Descriptions were printed in Portuguese, French and English. Portugal Scott #1028-1034, issued to publicize Madeira and the Lubrapex 1968 Stamp Exhibition and Scott #1056-1059 commemorating Vasco da Gama are just a couple of examples of such issues.

Asia's first postage stamps were issued in 1852 by the province of Sind (a part of India under the British Raj and now part of Pakistan). Known as the Scinde Dawks, they were an embossed issue. India Scott A3 was an embossed sealing wax wafer on a paper backing. These items were so fragile that they easily cracked and disintegrated. They are depicted on India Scott 771 issued for Asiana 77, First Asian International Philatelic Exhibition.

BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

Invites you to its Annual Show and Bourse

Saturday February 3 2007

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre

292 Conestoga Drive

Brampton, Ontario

Between Kennedy Road and Highway 10

North of Bovaird (Hwy 7)

Featuring: 10 dealers, exhibits, table auctions, youth table, club circuit books, refreshment area, free admission, free parking

Florida Ballot Sent with Rare Stamp

By Tom Brown (Reuters – from Yahoo News)

A Florida voter may have unwittingly lost hundreds of thousands of dollars by using an extremely rare stamp to mail an absentee ballot in Tuesday's congressional election, a government official said on Friday.

The 1918 Inverted Jenny stamp, which takes its name from an image of a biplane accidentally printed upside-down, turned up on Tuesday night in Fort Lauderdale, where election officials were inspecting ballots from parts of south Florida, Broward County Commissioner John Rodstrom told Reuters. Only 100 of the stamps have ever been found, making them one of the top prizes of all philately.

Rodstrom, a member of the county's Canvassing Board, said he spotted the red and blue Inverted Jenny on a large envelope with two stamps from the 1930s and another dating to World War Two. The nominal value of the four vintage U.S. Post Office stamps was 87 cents, he said. "I thought, 'Oh my God, I know that stamp, I've seen that stamp before,'" said Rodstrom, 54, who dabbled in stamp collecting as a boy. "I'd forgotten the name. I just remembered there was a stamp with an upside-down biplane on it and that was a rare stamp."

Rodstrom said he did not examine the envelope's postmark, but it had no return address and the ballot was disqualified because it gave no clue as to the identity of the voter.

A block of four of the stamps sold for almost \$3 million last year, however, and Rodstrom said the one that turned up this week could fetch about \$500,000 for Broward County at auction.

"It's now government property," he said.

A WELL KEPT **secret**

Some may say so, but why not find out for yourself? We hold regular stamp auctions that cover the world. If you are looking for a single stamp or a box full, a specific set or cover, that special item or an entire collection you may find it in one of our auctions. With hundreds of lots each year in all sizes and price ranges, each sale has *something for everyone!*

A complimentary catalogue of our next sale is waiting to be mailed.

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Additional from Bellfonte Excursion



Foreigner's Comment

When Peter said he was organizing a trip to the American Philatelic Society, he asked me if I would like to join the group. I said "sure!".

We had met Peter and Susan on our first visit to State College and became good friends (Peter is my brother from another life.)

This is about my fifteenth trip to APS and it was one of the most memorable.

"Go Canada!"

The Yank in the Group
Dick Osman



Editor's Comment

What a great trip this was! I would hope that we could get enough requests for a repeat performance that we could run a similar trip in 2007.

Thank you Peter for an outstanding job! Well done.

gjp

Coates & Coates

Philatelist

Specialist in Canada & BNA
Stamps & Postal History

Newfoundland Registered 1860



"Harbour Grace SP 1 1860" on earliest known registered cover from Newfoundland (by about 2 years). "Registrd" in red crayon with "94" above and rated "3" pence (registration fee paid in cash as per usual) to St John and then "4" pence (both in red crayon) port to port rate to Halifax "SP 18 1860 NS". There would have been an additional charge of 3 pence to Bridgewater which would have been collected from the recipient. Original letter enclosed states "Forrell is to much of a coward to come again therefore we must get another vessell"

A few tears and part of B/F missing but Pence period Registered covers from Newfoundland are extremely rare let alone the earliest known.

Price: \$3000 CDN \$2700 US.

We welcome the opportunity
to help build your collection
through retail sales or by auction

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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 Plans for the meetings in the new year have not been announced to date.

Check out our web site at www.bramaleastampclub.com

Congratulations to **Ingo Nessel, Steve Johnson** and **Charlie Mlotek** on winning the GTAPA Club Challenge Award at Stampex '06. Ingo was awarded a Gold for his exhibit "Man Yee Arcade", Steve received a Vermeil for "Canadian Semi-Official Stamps and Delivery" and Charlie received a Bronze for "XXth Olympiad, Munich 1972. A picture of the proud winners being presented with the trophy by Garfield Portch can be seen on the Bramalea Stamp Club web site. Incidentally, the trophy titled "The Stamp Collector" was a donation from Garfield in 2003 to the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance.

The Bramalea Stamp Club sales books were at the 12th Annual GRVPA Grand Fair hosted by the Cambridge Stamp Club. Thanks are extended to sales books manager **Paul Williams** for taking the books to the Fair and to the other club members who helped man the table during the day

It is rumored that in conjunction with the December 19 meeting theme "Santa", a certain jolly old white bearded gentleman in a red suit might drop in with philatelic gifts for those in attendance.

Planning is well underway for the Bramalea Stamp Club's annual show and bourse. Show details can be found elsewhere in this issue.

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.

Plans for the meetings in the new year have not been announced to date.

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.

Don Peach



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.

November 23: Sam Chiu, The Chinese Labour Corps in France, WW I
December 14: Social Meeting at the Mandarin Restaurant at Finch and Dufferin commencing at 6:45. To add your name to the reservation list contact Geoff Ewing, President, at (416) 6533954.
Jan. 11: Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers. Clothesline Exhibition with prizes.
Jan. 25: Doug Irwin, Building Your Exhibit
Feb. 6.: Speaker to be announced
Feb. 22: Speaker to be announced

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!

John Wilson



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, 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.

At the November 1 meeting, Peter Butler gave a very entertaining and informative talk on preparing a one-page exhibit. During the talk, he reminded everyone not to lose sight of the fact that stamp collecting is a hobby and is therefore supposed to be fun. Peter's inspiring presentation was well received.

Dec. 6 – Art Halpert: Admiral issues of Canada
Dec. 20 – Christmas Party
Jan. 3 – Open meeting
Jan. 17 – Ted Wright (George Wegg Ltd.): Classic Greek stamps: large Hermes heads
Feb. 7 & 21 – Open meeting
March 7 – Wilf Cowan: Slide presentation
March 21 – Open meeting
March 24 – Annual Stamp Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West.
April 4 – Presentation of the slate for the new executive
April 18 – Auction (all welcome)
May 2 – Leslie Meisels: Stamps of Hungary
May 16 – Annual General Meeting

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

Alena Pascual



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

"Troyak" next meetings are: December 10, 2006; January 28, 2007; February 25, 2007, April 29, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. March 4, 2007 - IV Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2007. 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: Janusz M. at 647-400-7857 or, Wieslaw G. at 416-258-1651. www.troyakclub.com info@troyakclub.com New members are always welcome.

MARCH 4, 2007, Mississauga, ON
IV Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2007, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Mississauga, Ontario (just south of 403). Organized by the Polish - Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak" of Toronto. Many tables of coins, medals, paper money, stamps, militaria & antique papers. Polonica & historical souvenirs. Exhibit of Upper Silesia's coins, stamps, paper money, sports pins, medals & other collectibles...Exhibit of Polish POW camps stamps of WWII. Stamp Exhibit – John Paul II On World Stamps. Polish Mint info table. Polish stamps expert info table. "Troyak Junior" table with boxes of free stamps. Troyak special medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available. Sunday March 4, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more info call: Janusz (Peter) Machulec 647-400-7857 or 416-724-4410 or visit website: www.troyakclub.com or info@troyakclub.com

Robert Owczarz



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 Winter meetings:

The annual Christmas Party is set for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at the Swiss Chalet at Eglinton Ave. and Bellamy Rd.

Plans for the meetings in the new year have not been announced to date.

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.

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STAMPEX 2006

Congratulations to Bramalea for the victory in the annual Club Challenge competition.



Charlie Mlotic, Ingo Nessel and Steve Johnson accept the Club Challenge Award from Garfield Portch.

The other entrants in the three-frame challenge were the North Toronto Stamp Club, The Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society and the West Toronto Stamp Club. The judges for the competition were **Peter Madej** and **Rodney Paige**.

Despite the temporary voluntary suspension of the National Status for STAMPEX, the exhibition was not the disaster forecast by some. We were pleased to present 56 frames of exhibits many of which were "first timers". This venue gave some new exhibitors the opportunity to show without the fear of the criticism from a jury. We have been asked by several participants to allow for a section for non-competitive exhibitors at future National shows.

Included in the 56 frames were 12 frames entered in the annual Club Challenge. Again this year, we saw the best offerings from within four of our member clubs.

A further competition within the exhibition was the single page/single frame competition. Our judges this year were **Rick Penko** and **Malcolm Pacey**. The winning club this year is the Kitchener-Waterloo Stamp Club whose President, **Jim Oliver**, will be appointed to judge in 2007 with Malcolm.

One of the warm moments in the single page competition came when I was placing the ribbons on the frames. I met one of the K-W exhibitors who was recorded as being 7 years old and had the privilege of telling her that she had earned a gold ribbon. When I said that it was a great accomplishment for a 7-year old, she calmly replied "Well, actually I am closer to 6½!" I suspect that there aren't many shows that have awarded Gold to that young a competitor.

Congratulations K-W! Keep up the good work.

gjp

Second World War Jewish Refugees in Shanghai

by Robert Pinet



In the 1930s, Shanghai was an 'open city' which required no documentation for entry and became a haven for European refugees, especially Jews. In the early 30's, about 4,000 mainly Russian and Polish Jewish refugees from the Bolshevik Revolution lived there. The occupation of the city by Japanese forces from November 1937 on does not seem to have affected the in-flow of Europeans. By August 1939, approximately 14,000 German and Austrian Jews had found refuge in the city and remained for the duration of the Second World War.(1)

This August 1940 cover from a Jewish refugee in Shanghai to a less fortunate relative in Berlin is endorsed "via Sibiria." It would have traveled from Shanghai to Harbin, and thence via the Trans-Siberia Railroad west. Franking is also of interest. The cover carries two CNC \$.25 stamps to pay the appropriate CNC \$.50 international postage rate for the period from September 1, 1930 to November 1, 1941, for letters up to 20 grams. (2) However, these stamps are part of a set (Scott 364-367) which celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the American Revolution and which, according to the Chan Catalogue, were disallowed by the Japanese authorities in the occupied territories! And yet here they appear, with two 'sock on the nose' 'Shanghai 16.8.40' cds's. The dealer I bought this item from adds: "This restriction apparently did not apply to the international quarter in Shanghai – as confirmed to me by an 80 years young gentleman who lived there at the time and was an avid stamp collector."

The reverse features black Nazi German *Geprüft* ("Inspected") censor tape and red Nazi censor (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht) strikes.

The cover itself is also unusual because it seems to have been created out of an old stamp album page – the back of the envelope features printed bordered boxes, as well as a printed note in English which reads "Russian "B" for "B" in Belgique." Thus, the sender was possibly a stamp collector himself, or the father of an unfortunate young philatelist forced to sacrifice album pages to meet the emergency. Perhaps this improvised cover was needed as a result of a severe shortage of envelopes and other paper in Shanghai at that time, or was simply the result of poverty.

Marrus, Michael. (1985). *The Unwanted: European Refugees in the Twentieth Century*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Blackburn, J. Lewis, & Sieh, Ping-wen. (1981). *Postage Rates of China (1867-1980)*. Taipei, Taiwan: Directorate General of Posts.

Addendum: Regarding my last column, on the cover from the Spanish Civil War internment camp in Le Vernet, Ronald G. Shelley, in *A Guide to the Postal History of the Spanish Civil War 1936 to 1939 (4.14 Refugee Camps in France)*, lists this camp as a "Punishment Camp," which, I assume, means a prison for those internees who had broken camp rules.

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Having Fun with stamps!



The South African Post Office issued a set of five stamps to commemorate World Post Day on 9 October 2006. A special canceller and a commemorative envelope will also be issued.

Artist **Hein Botha** was asked to design funky cartoon characters that would convey the message that stamps are much fun. These characters convey a different message on each stamp:

Collect stamps - start an adventure: it is possible to collect stamps about almost any theme one can think of. In pursuit of a specific stamp, one meets many interesting people, acquires new information and discovers new sources of information. A very original collection with a fresh approach to its theme could even lead to overseas trips if it becomes a winner at the National Stamp Exhibition.

Be cool - collect stamps: be the talk of the neighbourhood with your original scrapbook made up of various interesting stamps about any theme you are interested in! You can enhance your memories of a special holiday, for instance, by adding stamps related to the places that were visited.

Learn more - collect stamps: by collecting stamps about a specific topic or theme, a person can find a lot of unexpected facts about themes as diverse as action sports, classic cars to movie stars, nature and history. What about starting a penpal club with people in other countries or even implement a sister school (similar to the sister city) project?

Have Fun - collect stamps: when you start collecting stamps about a theme that you are very interested in, it becomes a lot of fun to surf the net to see what stamps are available from various countries. Meeting with friends to compare each other's collections, listening to music and talking about mutual interests is another way of enjoying one's social life. Ever thought about designing fashion items from stamps? How about using them for interior design or even paint by stamps?

Travel the world - collect stamps: who is a real traveller? Is it the person who packs his bags to go overseas or is it the curious person who reads and learns as much as possible about interesting countries and places? By collecting stamps one can learn fascinating things about other countries, for instance that stamps that come from Helvetia are

from Switzerland, stamps from Hellas are from Greece, and stamps from Magyar are from Hungary, etc. How about asking foreign tourism offices to send you brochures from their countries? Or asking a foreign philatelic club to share some of their stamps with you?

World Post Day is celebrated worldwide each year on 9 October to commemorate the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in Bern in 1874. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since its inception countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations. The theme for this year's World Post Day is 'Reaching everyone everywhere'.

Thea Swanepoel
Design Artist: Philatelic Services



WAS IT THE "SPILLED-COFFEE-
ON-THE-PENNY-BLACK"
DREAM AGAIN, DEAR ?

Credit:

Thank you to Johan van Wyk, senior manager, Philatelic Services, South African Post Office for permission to reprint the material on this page and the cartoon on page 10.

The story, illustration and cartoon were originally published in *Setempe*, the philatelic magazine of the South African Post Office.

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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 #4: Knowledge is power when buying at auction.

Do you buy at auction? Do you believe implicitly the lot description or the illustration you're given in the catalogue? More than 95% of these are in fact accurate and trustworthy. A few are not. If you are going to spend your hard-earned money on a spectacular, usually expensive, stamp or cover make sure to do your homework. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and many a time we, as collectors, see in a philatelic item what we want to see not what is there. We see that missing gem, that rare rate, that lovely destination, that lightly cancelled stamp. Are they for real?

A few of the covers that could have been in The Brigham Collection are not because the homework was done. Some examples. In a Large Queen estate purchase, there was a lovely small pamphlet bearing a ½¢ Large Queen that clearly did not belong—it had previously been used. It is evident that the previous owner and the dealer who had sold it to him did not do their homework. The cancel on a 12d. was lightened to make it more attractive. Many covers were frequently doctored to enhance them. An example is a stamp replaced by another because it is defective. In another case a stamp is added because the original had previously been removed or was missing. Yet again, stamps have been added to make the correct or a better rate and bisects created by lifting the original stamp and removing half of it. Why is this done? Sometimes the collector or dealer do it to get a better return when selling the item; a collector can't afford an expensive rate cover for his exhibit so creates one; or the fake/fraud was made up decades ago and has continued to be sold as an original because of its provenance. People are awed by Ex - Jarrett or Ex - Campbell. Neither of these gentlemen was above enhancing a cover for a lark. Some of these covers are still with us and fetch nice prices.

In tip #5, I will look at what you can do to protect yourself from these 'frauds' and what happens to them once they are identified. They seem to reappear in sales or in dealer's boxes.

Philatelic Tip #5: Protecting yourself from frauds, fakes and forgeries.

An eagle-eyed customer of an auction house pointed out that a cover in a sale had been faked since it was last sold. The cover was listed in a previous auction. At the time it bore a 5¢ Small Queen. Since then the 5¢ has been replaced by a 10¢ Small Queen hoping to increase its value. The successful bidder was informed and the cover withdrawn. The customer went on to say, "the faker didn't realize that all the value (for a BC Postal history collector) was in the corner card not the franking. ... Like a lot of fakers, they don't understand the material

and make stupid choices." This incident really should encourage you to do your homework before you buy.

What can you do to protect yourself? First of all go and view the stamp or cover you are interested in with a critical eye or ask somebody you trust to do it for you. Ask questions if you are not satisfied. Look up auction sales catalogues of previous owners when they are known to see if the stamp or cover is in fact the same one owned by the 'famous' collector or has it been altered or replaced. In a well-known Pence and Cents collection, purchased by Ron Brigham, a ½d. rose on vertical ribbed wove paper was identified as being *Ex - Julian Smith*. The previous owner took it at face value but, when you compare the stamp to the picture of the real McCoy in the Julian Smith sale, you quickly find out that it isn't the same stamp at all. In addition, you find out it isn't on vertical ribbed paper but on a horizontal one.

If you are not happy with the cover or stamp and are still not sure after studying it but want to bid on it, ask for an 'extension'. This means that, if you are the winning bidder, the item will be submitted to a reputable authority for certification.

Additionally, for covers, check rate tables and philatelic literature to make sure the franking corresponds to the rate in effect at that time or the route that it was carried on was in use at the time.

As well check other markings, some times these will give you a clue to the authenticity of the cover. But don't forget there are always exceptions; e.g., letters were regularly over- or underpaid with impunity. You can also visually check to see if there are any visible repairs to the cover itself. Sometimes this is an indication that other "improvements" may have been made.

The bottom line is doing your homework.

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