

PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

Area Philatelic Alliance
Greater Toronto
gtapa

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Hilja Ekberg Awarded Certificate of Merit



Geoff Ewing, Al & Hilja Ekberg and Garfield Portch

Hilja Ekberg became the most recent recipient of a GTAPA **Certificate of Merit** at the North Toronto Stamp Club bourse on March 17, 2007. Presented by **Garfield Portch**, editor of *PhilaJournal*, the award recognizes Hilja's long-term outstanding service to the North Toronto Stamp Club.

In addition to being a regular participant in the Club's day-to-day activities, Hilja has run the food concession at North Toronto shows and bourses for many years.

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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

WEB SITE

www.gtapa.org

ROYAL &

SUNALLIANCE

North Toronto Stamp Club

On Saturday, March 17 there was an inch of fresh snow, freezing temperatures and a nasty wind. This did not prevent 17 dealers and more than 170 visitors from finding our spring bourse's new venue, the gymnasium in the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church complex. The bourse, the club's circuit books and the food concession were busy all day.

Three new members signed up and several others showed interest in the club. Although some costs were lower as we did not have to transport tables and the circuit off-site, there were new expenses in signage and the men we hired to help dealers move in and out and to move the heavier tables. All in all it was a very busy and happy day and we discovered that we would be able to expand to 22 dealers for our next bourse on June 16.

At the CSDA Spring Show

We would normally have held our 64th annual exhibition at the same time and place as our March bourse but there simply was not an appropriate space to use. We therefore accepted an offer from the CSDA to mount our exhibition at their spring show held April 13-15 in the Queen Elizabeth Building. We were able to arrange for **Rick Penko** and **Rod Paige**, who were going to be in town during the show, to serve as judges. There were 4 multi-frame, 6 single-frame and 3 half-frame exhibits in competition provided by 12 exhibitors and a two frame 'Court of Honour' exhibit concerning one-page exhibiting (provided by **Peter Butler**). The judges took over an hour at the frames and consulting together on Friday so that they were able to sign certificates on Saturday and hold at-frame critiques with most of the exhibitors on Saturday and Sunday.

Palmares:

multiple-frame exhibits:

- Gary A. Collins** (Gold, Best multiple-frame exhibit), Canada and the Great War of 1914-1918;
William Mattos (Vermeil), The Wheels of Joy;
John Wilson (Silver-Bronze), The Pleasures of Local Posts;
Stuart C. Sheppard (Bronze), A Passion for Roses.

single-frame exhibits:

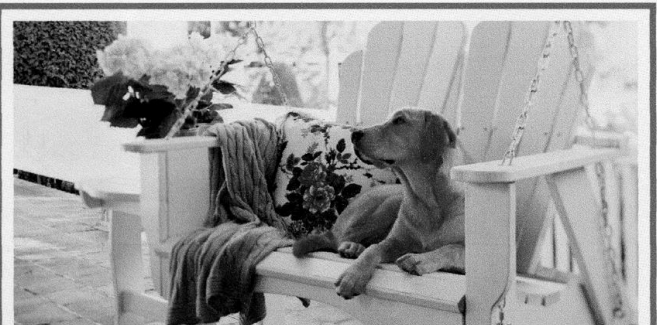
- Garfield Portch** (Gold, Best single-frame), Jacques Cartier Quadricentenary Issue
Steve Johnson (Gold), Semi-official Stamps and Mail used at Red Lake Ontario
Ted Wright (Silver), The Flying Hermes Postal Stationery Issue of Greece
Robert Pinet (Silver), Montreal's Golden Age: Victorian Era Advertising Covers and Post Cards
John Chabrol and P.J. Ramphal (Bronze), Caribbean Cricket and Cricketers
John Wilson (Silver), Mail to and from Ships in Hong Kong Harbour.

half-frame exhibits:

- Joel Ruimy**, A Study of the Kasbah of Oudayas Design of French Morocco, 1933-1940
Joel Ruimy, A Philatelic Tourist on Devil's Island
Leon Matthys, A Study of the Chateau de Ramezay.
(These are exhibits of 2 to 8 pages in which exhibitors can practice and develop their skills for 'frame' exhibiting skills and receive judges' comments on how these might be expanded. Both the judges and the exhibitors were very pleased with this effort.)

As well, three collectors, **Gordon Payne**, **Ernie Nyitrai** and **Garfield Portch** took the opportunity (of the provision of free frame space for GTAPA members) to mount five frames of non-judged material which garnered considerable interest from visitors. The NTSC's exhibition program made mention of these and of the GTAPA booth where more information was available.

In return for the NTSC providing the exhibits, the CSDA allowed the club to have a booth where they had their sales circuit books and information about the club. Over half-a-dozen visitors showed interest in joining the club. The CSDA was pleased with our efforts and have invited us to hold our exhibition with them next spring.



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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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Subscription

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Any reader, dealer, or institution wishing to place an ad in *PhilaJournal* to promote their product or service, may contact:

Ernie Nyitrai at 905-477-1511
e-mail:enyitr618@rogers.com

Rates

Space	1 issue	4 issues
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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

Editing *PhilaJournal* on behalf of members of GTAPA is an incredibly rewarding job. One of the benefits (making up for the low pay) is the number of invitations received to participate in member club activities.

There has always been an understanding that open invitations exist for members of GTAPA clubs to visit other member clubs. The personal invitations have encouraged me to attend functions of eight of our ten clubs and to observe and appreciate the diversity of club activities and member interests.

I urge our readers to look at the club news, check the meeting dates, and make a point of visiting one or two other clubs. I know that you will be welcomed warmly wherever you go.

I also urge you to become an active participant in your home club and in events hosted by the GTAPA. You will discover that the enjoyment and satisfaction you receive will be proportional to your involvement.

I also urge readers to get involved by sending letters and/or articles to *PhilaJournal*. This journal is for and about stamp collectors in the GTA.

Thank you **Randy Post** of Midland, Ontario for the donation of stamps and album from his mother's estate. The album will be passed to a junior collector and the stamps will be used in the mailing of *PhilaJournal*.

gjp

DEADLINE

The Summer Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of August. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the **30th of July**

In this issue

Certificate of Merit to Hilja Ekberg	1
North Toronto Show reports, <i>Geoff Ewing</i>	2
Messages from the President	4
Unusual Stamps, <i>Jerry Piotrowski</i>	4
Tibetan Refugees in Bhutan, <i>Robert Pinet</i>	6
Club News & Activities	8
Mysterios Case of the Viennese Poste Restante	13

ROYAL*2007*ROYALE

is being hosted by
GTAPA

October 12, 13, 14, 2007

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

Messages from the President

The GTAPA and the ROYAL

Everyone is anxiously awaiting the warm weather and planning vacations for the summer months and here am I asking you to plan on helping the GTAPA Team at the ROYAL*2007*ROYALE to be held in the fall. Such is the reality of the preparations required of *The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's* annual National Convention, Exhibition and Marketplace.

The Planning Team has been working hard since the Calgary Show concluded last fall and many of the preparations are already in place. But as we now begin the countdown to October 12 to 14, there are a tremendous number of jobs still left to do. The most important one is to begin our round-up of volunteers needed to assist the managers of several areas of the program. Every one of the following activities needs your support, whether it be for a day at the show, all three days, part of a day or several days before the show. Here is a list of the managers with a brief description of their needs:

- **Robert Owczarz** and **Elaine Skinner** require a team of assistants to organize the registration table (tickets for various events), admission and entrance supervision. Also, there will be name tags to prepare and distribute prior to the event. Elaine will also need helpers with the banquet organization and Robert will require several helpers in the set-up and take-down of the exhibits.
- **Dave Stone** will require several club members to assist with the Youth Program that will run on all three days of the show. Over one hundred children will attend the special programs which will include a Beginner's Day (Friday) with school children being bussed from Toronto Elementary schools, a special Hockey Thematic Day (Saturday) for experienced young collectors (involving a trip to the Hockey Hall of Fame, HHOF) and a Family Day program on the Sunday.
- **Garfield Portch** will require helpers to display and present the awards, ribbons, medallions and certificates for distribution at the awards presentation at the banquet on the Saturday evening. Several others jobs will need to be done prior to the banquet.
- **Bob Thorne** and **Doug Irwin's** team, responsible for the frame set-up and take-down of exhibits, always need extra hands and with this year's goal of 300 competitive frames and another 100 for the "*Court of Honour*," that crew will definitely require more strong backs!
- I will require several assistants to assist with the GTAPA host booth. Besides advertising a GTAPA membership drive, we will need helpers each day to work The RPSC table, the commemorative covers and postcards sales table and the special cancellations table.



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For more information:

Peter Jacobi, Secretary
#6-2168 150 A St.
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Many of you have helped before with **STAMPEX** and other large shows. This one, however, will be our biggest challenge and more helpers than ever will be required to make the ROYAL 2007 the best show over the past ten years in Toronto, yes, even Canada.

We definitely need help. We can't do the show without it. I am hoping that many new volunteers will step forward to be a part of one of the great Canadian philatelic experiences of the decade. **Please do not wait to be asked. Mark off the dates on your calendar and call someone today to volunteer.** If you know the managers, call them directly and express your desire to help. If not, please call me if more information is needed or your club president to pass on your offer. He will forward names, e-mails or phone numbers to the managers who will contact you directly.

The ten clubs of the Alliance make up an extraordinary group of stamp collectors, almost 400 strong. Please don't leave it to the other person or the other club to carry the load of the hundreds of tasks that await us. Let's show the rest of the country that Toronto can do it. Let's have all those who attend attest to the fact that it was a great show and to remember that great teamwork and terrific cooperation was evident at every turn.

Hockey Thematic Day

If your club has a group of youth collectors, you may want to organize a car pool and reserve a table for them at the Hockey Thematic Day program at the ROYAL.

club presidents to reserve a seat. Numbers will be limited. It will run from 10 'til 2 on the Saturday and will include workshops on creating thematic exhibits. There will be a visit to the HHOF, meet an NHL hockey player, tour the displays and possibly view a hockey stamp exhibit. Contact Dave Stone (416-284-5884 or davidr.stone@sympatico.ca) to confirm involvement.

Club members are invited to prepare an exhibit of their favourite hockey material in a one page, one or more frames to exhibit at the HHOF or the ROYAL (yet to be decided) Exhibits may be entered in the competitive categories or the non- competitive category. Recognition of your involvement in either category will be specially acknowledged.

We will need hundreds of world-wide hockey stamps to distribute to the children to begin their hockey exhibits. We ask that all club members take a few minutes to go through their trading stock books and pull out any surplus hockey stamps to donate to the cause. A glassine envelope with 6 stamps inside, may seem like an inconsequential donation but please remember that if every GTAPA club member donated that many, we would have over two thousand stamps to give to budding young exhibitors. Just think. You will then be a part of this special project.

GTAPA Clubs donate generously

Although there are a few clubs that are not yet pledged to financially support the ROYAL, I am very pleased with the response and the generosity to date. We have over \$1500.00 in the GTAPA club donation list and we are confident the list will soon be 100%...what a great tribute to the GTAPA member clubs. I thank you most sincerely for this tremendous show of solidarity. Special thanks are also extended to the individual members who have also given a personal donation. Their names will be added to the list of individual donors. Both lists will be printed in the show program. Please remember that pledges of \$50.00 or more will receive a tax deduction on cheques made out to T.A.P.E. (Toronto Association of Philatelic Exhibitions)



Another trip to APS in November

Rumour has it that there might be another trip to the *American Philatelic Center* in November. While I am in Bellefonte this summer, dates will be checked out, approved by the GTAPA executive and then announced to all.

I wish each and every club member of the Alliance, a wonderful summer with memories of happy events with family and friends all enjoying the summer. To those lucky folks who are traveling all over the world, I wish you and yours a safe, eventful and enlightening adventure and a return home with lots of stamps and covers to write up a few one-pagers for the traditional September "Show and Tell" meetings.


Peter Butler

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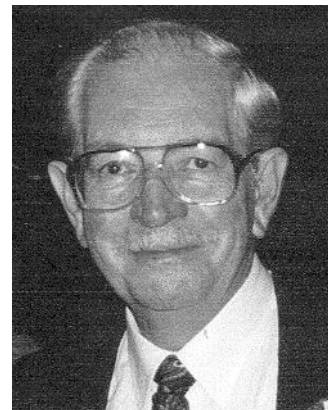
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In Memoriam
William Arthur "Art" Bone



We are sorry to report the passing on March 16, 2007 of Art Bone, a founding member of the G.T.A.P.A. Art loved his stamps and was proud to represent the North York Philatelic Society at G.T.A.P.A meetings and events.

To honour his memory, a moment of silence was observed at the GTAPA Board meeting on March 27.

We extend our condolences to Margaret, Art's wife of 45 years and his son David and his family.

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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**A Cover Tells A Story Of
Tibetan Refugees In Bhutan**
by Robert Pinet



My articles on twentieth century refugee covers have so far tended to focus on the First and Second World Wars. For a change of pace, I have decided to write about this rather tattered cover from Phuntsoling in

the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan in order to give a brief account of the Tibetan refugees living in the region.

The cover bears a 1966 15 *chetrum* Bhutanese stamp featuring the Simtokha Dzong (1), tied by a Phuntsoling 22 March slogan cancel reading "Second Five Year Plan 1966." The lower left corner has a double-oval purple hand stamp of the Tibetan Refugee Rehabilitation Office/ Phuntsoling/ Bhutan. The cover is back stamped with a faint receiving cancel in Bhutanese and Latin script, in which the end of one word and a full second word can be made out: "___pung-Dzong" along with the date, 25 MAR 66.

According to the always useful *Wikipedia* web site, **Dzong architecture** is a distinctive type of fortress architecture found in the former and present Buddhist kingdoms of the Himalayas, most notably Bhutan. The architecture is massive in style with towering exterior walls surrounding a complex of courtyards, temples, administrative offices, and monk housing. Distinctive features include: high inward sloping walls of brick and stone painted white with few or no windows in the lower sections of the wall; use of a surrounding red stripe near the top of the walls (perhaps punctuated by large gold circles); use of Chinese-style flared roofs atop interior temples; massive entry doors made of wood and iron; and interior courtyards and temples brightly colored in Buddhist-themed art motifs such as the ashtamangala [or Eight Auspicious Objects or Signs] or swastika, for example. (2)

Bhutan, a country of only 47,000 square kilometres, with a present-day population of about 672,000 (3) lies due south of Tibet, and it is to this Buddhist kingdom, as well as to Nepal and India, that 85,000 Tibetan refugees led by the Dalai Lama fled in 1959, following an unsuccessful uprising against the forces of the Chinese People's Liberation Army occupying their country. Since then, the Central Tibetan Association has served as the Tibetan government-in-exile. Among its many other functions, it has developed 54 agricultural, agro-industrial and handicraft-based refugee settlements, including the one in Phuntsoling. (4)

Phuntsoling lies just within the Bhutanese border with Sikkim, once a separate monarchy but, since 1965, a region incorporated into India. The receiving cancel suggests that the post office in Paro was located in the Rinpung Dzong, the administrative centre of the region. (5)

Tibetan refugees in Bhutan, India and Nepal now number about 121,000 in South Asia and about 4600 outside South Asia. (4) Most of the Tibetan community in Canada can be found in Toronto. (6)

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(6) Canada Tibet Committee. Tibetans in Canada. Retrieved April 30, 2007 from: <http://www.tibet.ca/en/tibetans/>

(1) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dzong>

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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 e-mail r.thorne@sympatico.ca

Check out our web site at www.bramaleastampclub.com

Congratulations to **Steve Johnson & Ingo Nessel** on their recent exhibiting successes. At Northland 2007 in New Zealand Steve received a Ruby award for his "Yukon Airways" as well as a special prize for research. Single frame exhibits received Gemstone awards rather than Precious Metal awards with Ruby ranking right behind the top level Diamond award. At the recent North Toronto show held in conjunction with the Spring CSDA show Steve was awarded Gold for his exhibit "Semi Official Stamps and Mail Used at Red Lake Ontario". At the Edmonton Spring National Show 2007 Ingo Nessel received Silver for his "Man Yee Arcade" exhibit.

Theme night for the April 17 meeting was cancelled and replaced by a presentation on Small Queens delivered by **Garfield Portch** of the West Toronto Stamp Club. Courtesy of two club members, everyone was given a copy of a Small Queen so that they could later try and identify from which printing their copy came from.

In Memoriam

Our condolences are extended to the family of Bramalea Stamp Club member **Bruce Smith** who passed away February 12 after a brief struggle with cancer.

Condolences are also extended to the family of Bramalea Stamp Club member **Glyn Weaver** who passed away April 28 after a long illness.

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

We have lost our secretary, who lost his fight against cancer. Herb Kucera is the acting (interim) secretary until our next election.

We have also lost the privilege of meeting regularly at the premises of Canaccord Capital Corporation. In the meantime we have held meetings at the Albany Club, and at the Eagles Club on Elm Street, as a combined venture with the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club.

Our next meeting will be on the premises of DEPAG Agency, 14th floor at 67 Yonge Street. In this connection we are also returning to our traditional meeting night, the third Thursday of the month.

Another place being considered for future meetings is the Vincent Greene Foundation on Summerhill Avenue. At this time no specific choice of future meeting places has been made. We are considering to hold meetings in different locations as may be most convenient, e. g. Christmas party at the Albany Club, exhibitions at the VGG, etc.

Our May meeting on May 17 will be the exhibition meeting. We are looking forward to seeing Jo-Anne Peach exhibit the collection assembled by her husband Don just before he passed away.

Herb Kucera

In Memoriam Don Peach



I first met Don when he joined the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society. We are all stamp collectors and sharing this hobby with Don was special. His enthusiasm for most things in life was just fantastic. There we were, trying to prod long time members of our club to participate in exhibiting at the upcoming Stamp Show at the CNE. Our newcomer Don had inherited his father's stamp collection and was just, finding out what exhibiting stamps is all about. In no time at all, Don had put together an impressive show of stamps from his father's collection, all issued for the coronation of King George VI, from just about every corner of the British Empire. Don was awarded a medal for this exhibit. If only we could transfer some of this enthusiasm to other members!

This past fall Don called me and wanted to discuss his next stamp project for our exhibition planned in 2007. He came to our place and we both enjoyed looking at all the art stamps "Paintings by famous artists".

Not only did Don pitch in with exhibitions. When the club needed a new secretary, Don stepped right up and with the help of his wife produced the monthly bulletins for our club. He reported the minutes of the previous meeting and provided announcements for the next one, he also added little personal touches, like an adage or a newspaper clipping. We will miss hearing from him.

Don was also an active sportsman participating in curling during the winter and golf in the warmer months.

We all lost a wonderful person with Don. He could get people excited about doing something. Few people have that ability. On behalf of the Insurance and Banking Stamp Club, I would like to express our condolences to Don's families. Jo-Anne has attended some of our meetings in the past, and we would be pleased to see her again at future meetings.

Herb Kucera

NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

The North Toronto Stamp Club holds its meetings at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Yonge Street at Heath Street, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

May 10 Ernie Nyitrai will talk about a selection from his collection of Canadian Coil Stamps

May 24 William Mattos – The Wheels of Joy – bicycles in philately

June 14 and 28 (order to be determined)
Steve Johnson – Yukon Air Service
Garfield Portch -- Jacques Cartier
Quadracentenary Issue

July and August – summer dinner meetings –
barbeques at Herb and Diane Letsche's
home
-- dates to be decided

Sept. 13 – clothesline exhibit – bring anything from a single item to a couple of pages that interests you and talk about it briefly

Geoff Ewing



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.

The NYPS annual stamp show was held on March 24, at Centennial Arena, and was remarkably well attended. Next year's show is scheduled for March 29.

Our next auction will take place on October 17. All are welcome!

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

"Troyak" next meetings are: May 27, 2007; June 24, 2007 at 4:30 p.m., July 2007 and August 2007 – Summer break in Troyak activities. Next meeting are planned for September 30, 2007 and October 28, 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 (Peter) Machulec at 647-400-7857. www.troyakclub.com or info@troyakclub.com
New members are always welcome.

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 italman@interlog.com



SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB

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.

Meetings are held at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 East Park Blvd., (Lawrence and Markham area) in Scarborough. The doors are open at 6:00 p.m. 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

UKRAINPEX 2007 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto) in conjunction with the international Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS) is sponsoring a philatelic, numismatic and collectibles exhibition and bourse in Toronto, Canada on June 16 - 17, 2007.

There will be no admission fee but donations to support the club are always appreciated.

All collectors are invited to enter both competitive and non-competitive exhibits in all areas of Ukraine collectibles i.e. stamps, banknotes and coins, awards and medals, postcards, documents, etc. The focus area of the show will be Ukraine philately.

Experts in Ukraine collectibles will be available to offer opinions (at no charge) on the history and the value of specific Ukraine collectibles brought in by the public for evaluation.

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 Street and 2 blocks east of Islington Avenue). Ample free parking.

Membership Dues: \$20 per year for new members and \$15 per year for renewals.

The WTSC has been operating for over 70 years so its program is well established with respect to a club newsletter, regular and invitational auctions, study group sessions, guest speakers and exhibitions.

The 3rd Tuesday of each month takes on the format of a study group dealing with a variety of philatelic topics. The March 20th meeting featured a talk about stamp auctions by Bill Longley of Longley Auctions. He also shared with us his Gold Medal exhibit of the Uruguay "Cifras" issue.

The second WTSC's semi-annual club auction, the 'Spring 2007 Invitational Auction', is scheduled for April 24th. Over 70 lots with a catalogue value close to \$5,000 will be hammered. We look forward to the usual excitement and frenzied bidding!

Gerry Quidzinski, in the photo with his wife Sylvia, was the winner of the 'Ted Allen Cup' competition on May 15th. This is an open exhibition where members can display anything philatelically, from a single page to a multi-page collection. There are no rules. His exhibit of the Dornier DO-X flight was judged the best of eight exhibits as decided by a popularity poll amongst the attendees



The last philatelic exhibition of the season, 'The E. Drake Trophy', will take place on June 19th. This competition is open to all members and consists of 'One-frame Exhibit' (16 pages) participation. The entries will be evaluated according to established local exhibition criteria.

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

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INDEPENDENT THINKING



The Mysterious Case Of The Viennese Poste Restante

As told to Keith Brandon by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.



DOCTOR WATSON: I say, Holmes, what do you make of this card I bought at the York Postcard Fair last week. You see it has been postmarked by the Poste-Restante desk at the main Vienna post office, but, instead of remaining there, it seems to have been sent on a tour of the Vienna suburbs. I thought that one had to collect mail from a poste-restante office.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: I see what you mean Watson. It is interesting. I'll see what I can deduce from the clues on the postcard, and maybe make a few enquiries among my contacts in the world of postal history.

(a few days later)

WATSON: Did you have a chance to look at my postcard, Holmes?

HOLMES: Yes, old chap. It's really all very simple. Let us start by looking at the postmarks more closely. The card was written in Eisenstein in Bohemia on 11 September 1879, and was postmarked the same day. Your mistake, my dear Watson, is to assume that, once the card reached Vienna, it was sent to the poste-restante office for collection.

WATSON: Well, what other explanation can there be, Holmes?

HOLMES: Look closely at the dates on the other postmarks. We have:

POSTE RESTANTE / WIEN-STADT / 12.9.79
ALSERGRUND / WIEN / 12.9.9F.79
DÖBLING / 12.9.12-1M.79
WÄHRING / 13.9.8A

The clues are in the expedition codes. In the ALSERGRUND postmark, "9F" means "9 früh", or 9.00 am in English. So, Watson, if the card went first to the poste-restante office on 12th September, then it cannot have rested there for very long if it arrived in Alsergrund at 9.00am.

WATSON: I suppose you're right, Holmes, but how and why did the card gain a POSTE-RESTANTE postmark later in the day?

HOLMES: I deduce that when the card arrived in Vienna, the sorting office sent it to Alsergrund, where we know it had arrived by 9.00am. The Alsergrund post office was unable to deliver it, and forwarded it to Döbling. If you look closely, you can just make out the word "Döbling" written in red crayon. The expedition code on the DÖBLING postmark (12-1M = 12-1 Mittags = 12.00 noon to 1.00pm) tells us that the card arrived in Döbling at around midday. The Döbling office was also unable to deliver it, and returned the card to the main Vienna post-office where it gained the POSTE-RESTANTE postmark later that day. WATSON: But why did it go to that particular office, old boy?

HOLMES: Well, my deduction is that one of the roles of the poste-restante office was to correctly identify the proper destination for mail for which the address was not clear. I deduce that it was the poste-restante office that wrote "Währing" on the card by hand, and sent it on to that office. We can see from the expedition code (8A = 8 Abends = 8.00pm) in the WÄHRING postmark that it arrived there by the evening of the 13th.

WATSON: That's all very well, Holmes, but the address is perfectly clear. Even I can read the street-name "Türkenschanze". So why did the sorting-office send it to Alsergrund in the first place, and why did that office send it to Döbling if Türkenschanze is in Währing?

HOLMES: What do you know about astronomy, Watson?

WATSON: Well, I don't know, Holmes. About as much as the next fellow I suppose.

HOLMES: You see, the answer is in the stars! Can you read this inscription in the bottom-left corner? It starts with "KK.....".

WATSON: I think that KK means Kaiserliche Königliche, but I can't read next word.

HOLMES: Nor could I at first. But I borrowed Professor Andrew Taylor's big street-atlas of Vienna. Begin by looking at the Währing district. You see, here is



Türkenschanzstrasse, and the large green area above and below Hasenauerstrasse is Türkenschanzpark. This park was built on the area known as the Türkenschanze, the site of the Turkish earthworks and fortifications during the Siege of Vienna in the late seventeenth century. Have

a look at this used stamp from my own collection, Watson. It commemorates the 300th anniversary of the relief of Vienna. You can see the fortified old town of Vienna, with the river Danube in the background.

The Türkenschanze would have been on the left-hand edge of the picture. In the foreground you can see the Turkish forces (with their camels!).



WATSON: Very interesting, I'm sure. But what about the illegible word? And going back to the map, what is this big building in the middle of the Türkenschanzpark?

HOLMES: Well spotted, Watson! It is the Sternwarte!

WATSON: Ha! That's the word we couldn't read on the postcard?

HOLMES: Quite right, my dear fellow. We'll make a detective of you yet. "Sternwarte" means "astronomical observatory", and so "K K Sternwarte" in English would be "Royal Observatory".

WATSON: Well, that seems fairly straightforward, but if you and I can work that out, why did German-speaking postal clerks, who do this for a living, keep sending the postcard to the wrong district? The address is clear enough, and the Royal Observatory must be a prominent and well-known building.

HOLMES: Let's now turn our attention to the recipient of the letter, Frau Direktor Adeliade Weiss.

WATSON: So Frau Weiss was the Director of the Royal Observatory in Türkenschanze in Vienna.....

HOLMES: That's what I thought, but I could find no information about this lady. It's clearly a very important position; you would easily be able to find plenty of information about, say, the Director of the Greenwich Observatory. I telegraphed the eminent mathematician Professor Henry Pollak in the United States on this and some other points, and, ah!, here is Mrs. Hudson with his reply. So.....he explains that if her husband was Herr Direktor, then the local etiquette would be that she was addressed as Frau Direktor.

WATSON: I don't see where this is leading, Holmes, but are you now going to find out who her husband was?

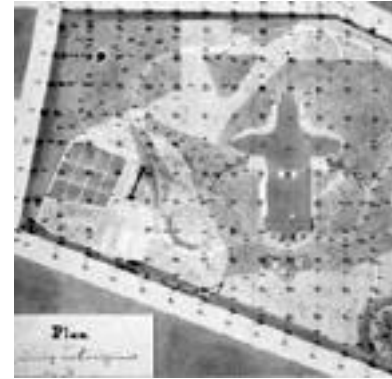
HOLMES: Indeed I am.

Two days later.

WATSON: What news, Holmes?

HOLMES: The Director of the Observatory at Türkenschanze was Edmund Weiss. The postcard was addressed to his wife, Frau Adeliade Weiss.

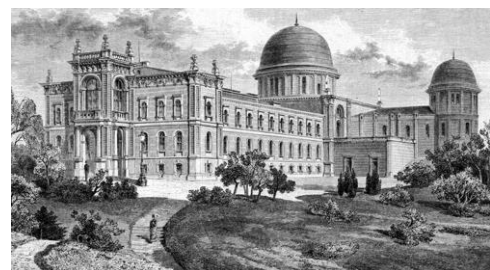
WATSON: By Jove, Holmes! And take another look at the map. Just to the south of the Observatory is a road called Edmund Weiss Gasse!



HOLMES: Yes, he was the Observatory's first Director, and he supervised its building. It was started in 1874 and completed in 1883 (the two-hundredth anniversary of the relief of Vienna). I have been round all the major London libraries and museums, and found this copy of the original plan of the new Observatory, and a photograph of the site for the new building, in 1872.



One day, postal historians will be able to find all this information in five minutes on the internet, but alas we are unable to do that now. It was the biggest observatory in the world at that time, and was formally opened by Emperor Franz Joseph in 1883, when.....



WATSON: But hold on, Holmes! My postcard is dated 1879. The Observatory wasn't even built then!

HOLMES: But it was almost finished. You will see from this 1878 engraving by J J Kirchner that the exterior of the building was almost complete by then. I deduce that Edmund Weiss had an office there to ensure that the observatory was fitted out to his satisfaction.

WATSON: A portakabin, with hard-hats and yellow fluorescent jackets and so on?

HOLMES: No, Watson. Those things have not been invented yet. I imagine a rather grand baroque office, a suit with a waistcoat and watch-chain, and a lot of distinguished facial hair.

WATSON: This is all very interesting, but what does it have to do with my postcard going to so many Vienna districts?

HOLMES: Well, you must remember that the Türkenschanz was just a development site, and that the Observatory had not opened yet. The post-office clerks probably weren't sure exactly where the site was. Alsergrund, Döbling and Währing are adjacent districts, and the Observatory lies only about 300 metres from the Währing/Döbling boundary and 1200 metres from the Währing/Alsergrund boundary. It is also possible that the Alsergrund office was thinking of the Hohe Warte, a meteorological observatory in the Döbling district. In the end, the Poste-Restante office tracked the Sternwarte down, and correctly addressed it to Währing.

WATSON: I think I've got the picture now, Holmes, but maybe you could just sum up for me your interpretation of the history of this postcard.

HOLMES: Elementary, my dear Watson. The card was written and posted in Eisenstein, Bohemia on 11th September 1879. It was incorrectly addressed to Frau Direktor Adeliade Weiss, K K Sternwarte, Türkenschanze, Wien.....

WATSON: "Incorrectly", Holmes?

HOLMES: Yes. Firstly because "Türkenschanze" is not an administrative or postal district or a street name, but just a vague name for an ill-defined area which had once had historical significance. Even the Türkenschanzpark did not open until 1888. Secondly, the Sternwarte was not in Vienna at that time; the municipality of Vienna finished at the Alsergrund/Währing boundary then. The 1890 expansion of Vienna incorporated Währing and Döbling as districts 18 and 19. The card should have been addressed to "Währing, Nieder Österreich". Then it would have probably been delivered with no problems.

I deduce that the postal clerk who received the card in the main Vienna sorting office knew that the Türkenschanze was somewhere to the north-west and sent it to Alsergrund, the closest district within the Vienna boundary. The Alsergrund clerk knew it wasn't in his

district, and sent it to Döbling, perhaps thinking of the Hohe Warte. He re-addressed it to Döbling, from where the postal clerks redirected the card back to the main post office in Wien. The staff at the Poste-Restante office there knew where the Sternwarte was, and readdressed the card to Währing, where it had arrived by the evening of 13 September.

WATSON: It's amazing to think that, despite all this coming and going, it took only two and a half days for the card to get from a small town in Bohemia to a partly-constructed observatory in an outer suburb of Vienna. I suppose that technological advances will mean that, by the beginning of the twenty-first century, the postal service will be able to complete that sort of journey in hours, if not minutes.

HOLMES: Well, I wouldn't be sure about that, Watson; sometimes progress goes backwards. Now, come on my good fellow; it's time to dress for dinner.

AUTHOR'S FOOTNOTE: I did indeed obtain this postcard (for £5) at the York Postcard Fair earlier this year. I bought it because of the "Poste Restante postmark, which I had not seen before. (Klein 5737q2; 180 points). Only when I got it home, did I start to wonder about the story of all the other markings on the card. In my opinion, it's a fine example of the appeal of postal history. Little did I know that it would take me into the worlds of Turkish fortifications and of the development of astronomy in Vienna. I am indebted to Henry Pollak and Andy Taylor who helped me unravel this fascinating story. The Sternwarte is still functioning, and a recent photograph is shown below (fig 7). It is now part of the University of Vienna). KMB.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was originally published in volume 155 of **Austria**, the publication of the Austrian Philatelic Society. We thank **Andy Taylor** (editor) for permission to reprint. The story, written by **Keith Brandon**, was brought to our attention by **Herb Kucera***

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2007
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

WINTER POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH, 2007
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Club sales circuit will be available
at all exhibitions & bourses

Refreshments available

Free parking (limited) and admission

Wheelchair access

Families and children welcome

For information, contact Herb
telephone (416) 445-7720
fax (416) 444-1273

e-mail: ntstampclub@yahoo.ca

DIRECTIONS

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church is 1 block north of St. Clair Avenue on the east side of Yonge Street. There is subway access from the St. Clair station. Free parking at the church is limited. City parking (Green P) is available on Alvin Ave., 1 block east, for which there is a charge.

ROYAL*2007*ROYALE

is being hosted by

GTAPA

October 12, 13, 14, 2007

Please contact your club representative
or
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The Crown Circle Handstamps of Amherst, Nova Scotia

Here are 2 stampless folded letters that would seem to be very similar at first glance. However, this is definitely not the case. Crown circle handstamps are quite scarce to rare and are one of the only handstamps Stanley Gibbons list in their stamp catalogue. A common use of this handstamp in my 1992 Stanley Gibbons (yes, I know I should buy a new catalogue) is £1000 on envelope



The first letter was posted in Amherst Nova Scotia on August 14 1847 and has the "AMHERST AU 14 1847 N.S." large split ring in red. As there were no postage stamps in 1847, the "PAID AT AMHERST. N.S." crown circle handstamp in red was applied to show that the 11 1/2 pence rate to the border of Canada/US was paid in cash. When it arrived at the American exchange office, the clerk wrote "10" (cents American) in black manuscript to show that the rate from the exchange office to Hartford Connecticut was not paid (it would have been collected from the recipient in Hartford) and crossed the "PAID" portion of the crown handstamp so there was no confusion about which amount was paid and unpaid. Crown circle handstamps are quite rare on cross border letters and this cover shows a most unusual paid/unpaid usage.....the first one I have ever seen.

The second folded letter was posted on July 1 1854 (Canada Day, but about 13 years too early) with an "Amherst JY 1 1854 N.S." large split ring cancel on the back in black. On the front of the folded letter is a "PAID AT AMHERST. N.S." crowned circle handstamp in red. This is where the similarities end with the 2 letters. In 1854, postage stamps were available for use and were normally used to prepay postage and thus the crown circle handstamp was not used..... except..... when they ran out of postage stamps (note in Stanley Gibbons). What is most interesting about this letter is that this crown circle handstamp signifies not only the payment of the 3 pence postage ("3" in manuscript), but also the 6 pence ("6" in manuscript) registration fee to Truro, Nova Scotia. This is only the second known use of the crown circle paying both regular postage and registration fee.

Both usages are rare and both are of exhibition quality. The pair of covers is available for \$4500.00.

We welcome the opportunity to help build your stamp and postal history collection through retail sales

Contact us at

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