

Phila Journal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance



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The Oshawa-Whitby Group is Our 11th Member

We are pleased to announce the addition of The Oshawa and Whitby Stamp Groups as the 11th member club in the GTAPA.

Under the initial guidance of Larry Friend, these groups were started as an integral part of the Oshawa and Whitby Seniors' programs. All members are members of the Senior Recreational Program in their respective community.

The groups meet three times weekly in three different daytime venues operated by the community program. Details of the schedule are listed in the Club News section.



I recently had the pleasure of attending one of the Friday meetings at the Legends Community Centre in Oshawa where I discovered a lively club bourse containing a wealth of members' material available at very reasonable prices with all transactions on the honour system. At the conclusion of the meeting, several members joined in the cafeteria for a lunch offered at bargain prices.

With about 60 members, this group is a welcome addition to our organization. Any GTAPA member having time available during the day should take a trip to visit this group. You will be warmly welcomed and pleasantly surprised!

Garfield Portch

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West Toronto Stamp Club

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



Summertime Doesn't Mean We Aren't Trading Stamps!

by Gordon Wicks
Oshawa Stamp Enthusiasts

This past week our Oshawa Stamp Enthusiasts hosted guests from both Cobourg and Trenton. Our group has been including 30 to 35 people regularly gathering to actively trade and or buy stamps. When **Larry Friend** and I began to promote an Oshawa group, a year ago last June, we set out to encourage active trading at very reasonable prices and our members regularly bring lots of stamps for trades at 5¢ and 10¢ each with only the most valuable stamps selling at higher prices – and even then mostly at a third to a maximum of half of the catalogue values.

It seems clear that our participants really are looking at both active trading and keeping this an inexpensive hobby. With lots of fellowship and enjoyable gatherings we are bringing people back regularly. Our numbers grew steadily from the very beginning and have never slackened off.

We are planning ahead for our second auction day to be held on Saturday October 27th. Viewing 10am to 12:30 - Auction starting at 1pm. Cash Only – No fees or taxes to Members.

Our regular meetings and the auctions are held at Legends Community Centre Senior's Centre Section, in the extreme North East section of Oshawa – 1661 Harmony Rd North. Regular Meetings are Fridays from 10:15 to 12:15 for Aug then returning to 11am to 1pm in September. One advantage of the location is that the Oshawa Seniors Centre also has a lunchroom area immediately adjacent to our meeting area so we can enjoy coffee or tea breaks or have a full lunch while we are attending the Stamp Enthusiast group.

Starting the first week of September the Whitby Stamp Enthusiasts group will resume meeting at the Whitby Seniors Centre on Brock St. S. just North of Hwy 401.

Our second Oshawa group will resume meetings on Tuesdays at the Northview Community Centre 150 Beatrice St. E. Oshawa from 1:15 to 3:15 Members are asked to belong to the local Seniors Centre – Oshawa Seniors membership fee (55 & older) is \$10 regardless of residency. Whitby Senior's fee is \$16. for Whitby Residents and \$32. for non residents.

Since our Oshawa group still meets regularly every Friday morning there's still time this summer for other groups to make a visit and see what is working in our area at least. We always welcome visitors.

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.

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PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

PhilaJournal is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to members of stamp clubs that are members 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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GTAPA Treasurer
Box 45, 260 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5A 1N1

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

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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.

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THE EDITOR'S SPACE

It's bragging time at the GTAPA. For the first time in our brief history, *PhilaJournal* was entered in the American Philatelic Society newsletter competition (for 2006 publications).

It is a delight to report back that we were awarded a Vermeil having scored 81 out of a possible 100 points. While we have some room for improvement, the opinion of the jury is most encouraging.

Thanks are due to all of our contributors who took the time to submit club news and timely articles of interest to our community.

Again, I make the editor's usual appeal for material for *PhilaJournal*. We need stories and photos about philatelic activity and the people who are involved. Write about your stamps, your friends, your club or an experience related to the hobby. If everybody sends one favourite page or item, we will have a huge backlog of material for the future.

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 **30th of October**.

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REMINDER

Royal*2007*Royale
is the National Philatelic Event for Canada and is being hosted by GTAPA.

Plan to attend October 12, 13, 14, 2007

You can register for the show by going on line at www.rpsc.org

Messages from the President

PhilaJournal awarded Vermeil!

When **Garfield Portch** took over the editorship of *PhilaJournal*, one of the initiatives that he announced to the Board was his intention to encourage club members to write articles for this newsletter. He has been very successful with this objective, and many members have been published over the past few years. It's probably fair to say that when these members sat down to write about their collections, they had no idea their writings would be read by several international philatelic literature experts as part of this year's American Philatelic Society's literature competition and that their writings would be contributing to the international success of the publication. Perhaps it's best not to know these things in advance. It's a little intimidating to think just how many people would be reading their articles and passing judgment for the philatelic world to note, on the quality of their work.

How sweet it is then, to learn that *PhilaJournal* has been awarded a vermeil, (That's almost gold!) at the above mentioned competition, for its significant contribution to the hobby for the almost 400 members in the ten clubs of the Alliance. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment and I know we all send along to Editor Garfield Portch our congratulations for the tremendous job he has done in producing such a fine publication.

It must also be noted that a success story like this is not the work of just one person. Kudos are also in order to **Ernie Nyitrai** who has gone out and sought advertising dollars to fund; the improvements to the production side of the newsletter, the distribution costs to provide copies for almost 50 extra readers beyond the Alliance members and to achieve a modest profit to enable the Alliance to further the cause of improving the "art of philately" in the GTAPA.

Great work, Garfield and Ernie, and to all those contributors who have shared stories with us, placed Toonie Ads and reported club news to the editor, we thank you for doing your part to make *PhilaJournal* the great success it has become.

The ROYAL is only six weeks away!

With only a few weeks until we host the **ROYAL*2007*ROYALE** annual convention in Toronto, I would like to urge members, if they haven't already done so, to purchase tickets for

the banquet. We are the host organization and an impressive showing of our members at this event will speak volumes of our strong support for the RPSC and the hobby across Canada. Nothing will ensure its success like a strong turnout. Please help the planning committee to create a memorable occasion by attending the banquet.

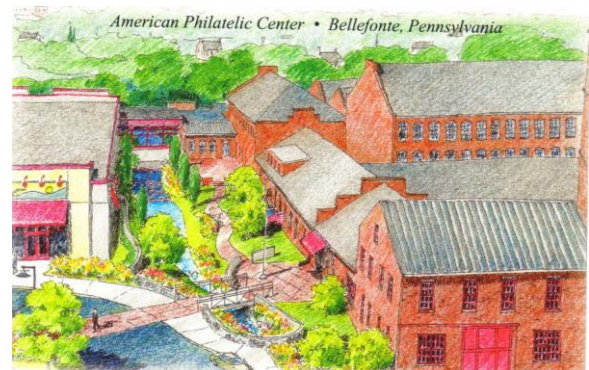
And do visit the website to get caught up with the new announcements appearing weekly about program highlights of the ROYAL show.

More clubs/societies join GTAPA... and GRVPA

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you have read about the addition of the Oshawa/Whitby stamp clubs to the Alliance family. There is more good news. At the time of writing these messages, another group has contacted me and expressed interest in joining the GTAPA. Hopefully, when the presidents pick up their copies of this issue of *PhilaJournal*, (at the August 22nd Board Meeting) they will be given the name of the newest member organization to be joining the Alliance this fall. That will bring us to twelve... a long way from the six founding member clubs in 2002.

I was pleased to receive news recently from Stuart Keeley, President of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association that they too are growing. They have welcomed three new clubs this spring to their group. Congratulations to the GRVPA.

It's confirmed!



Yes, the second excursion to the American Philatelic Center for members of the GTAPA, has been finalized. The Center is booked, 20 rooms at the same hotel are reserved and the highway coach and driver **Ross Henderson** are all set. The only details left to organize are the workshops and the timetable. We are announcing the dates early so those members who were disappointed last time, because of schedule

conflicts and other responsibilities, will be able to reserve the dates and circle them on the calendar, well in advance.

The dates are: THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 3, 4, 2008.

We had considered dates for the fall of 2007 but it was impossible to find weekends that were possible for the organizing team and free of Penn State Nittany Lions home football games. With the ROYAL in Mid-October and the possibility of snow in early December, it was felt that April would be a much better choice.

The program will be similar to our first excursion, although new topics and presenters for the workshops will be developed. There will also be more activities organized for our "stampless others" and we hope to have a new option available for those who might like to take in a play, concert or movie. All this, and more, for \$300.00 per person, and that's Canadian dollars!

At this time, we are announcing that a maximum of 40 reservations will be accepted. You can guarantee your involvement with this special trip to Bellefonte, Pennsylvania and the APS, by sending a cheque for \$100.00 (payable to GTAPA).

Club presidents will receive sign-up sheets at the August Alliance Board Meeting to distribute to interested people at their next club meeting.



This stamp depicts the Headsville Post Office that will be completed in time for our visit next spring

The Headsville Post Office, originally in West Virginia, mid-19th century, has been housed in the Smithsonian Institute for many years and is now in the process of being re-located to the AP Center at Bellefonte. It will become a working post office with mailing counter, mint stamp sales, cancellation privileges etc. More on the APS website, if needed.

Peter Butler



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A Night To Remember

by Garfield Portch

The evening of March 21, 2007 will forever hold fond memories of wonderful philatelic events.

The scheduled event was the regular meeting of the *Philatelic Specialists' Society* where the subject for the evening was "Show & Tell". That in itself is always a good meeting because of the diverse collecting interests of PSS members.

Amongst the guests invited for the evening were two ladies that I invited following a fortuitous chain of e-mails and phone calls. **Ann Dube**, daughter-in-law of the late **Herbert Dube**, and her daughter **Diane Slater**, became the focus of attention when they presented a display case of international philatelic awards plus two scrapbooks of memorabilia to the PSS.

The awards were the property of Herbert Dube who was member #1 and the first President of the Philatelic Specialists' Society. We are pleased to announce that the awards will be displayed in the library of the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation along with those of some of his friends – Vincent Greene, Harry Sutherland and Ken Rowe, to name a few.

Included in the scrapbooks were numerous certificates and ribbons earned by Mr. Dube at the North Toronto Stamp Club annual competitions.

Suffice to say, the presentation precipitated some very interesting trips down memory lane from some of our members who knew Herbert Dube.

In the short business meeting following, one of the PSS members, **Murray Heifetz** presented a copy of his latest publication on Canadian Airmail to the PSS as an addition to the Harry Sutherland Library. Coincidentally, Murray was awarded the Herbert Dube Award in 2004 for the first edition of this book.

The main course of the evening was the Show & Tell session. As is always the case, about a dozen presentations were made, each absolutely fascinating in its own way. Most of the displays were being shown not only to inform the group, but also to solicit information from the gathering. To my absolute amazement, almost every question asked by a presenter was answered from the floor. The wealth of knowledge present in the room is staggering, but the willingness to share it is gratifying.

If any 2-hour philatelic gathering can outdo the events of this evening, I would hope that I could have the good fortune to be in attendance. Until then, this will go down as my evening to remember.

Editor's Note: The GTAPA connection to this event is that Diane Slater, after a flood in her home, decided to dispose of her grandfather's philatelic treasures. She attempted to contact Peter Butler to offer the material, but Peter was on vacation. Her call was forwarded to Robert Owczarz who, in turn passed to me as the STAMPEX Awards chairman. The rest, as they say, is history.

EMIL J. TALACKO

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GTAPA MEMBER CLUBS' 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 Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday June 19. The agenda included approval of some minor changes to the club constitution and the confirmation of the officers of the club for a further one year term.

President: **Bob Thorne**
Secretary/Membership Chairman: **Paul Nicholl**
Treasurer: **Geoff Green**
Sales Circuit manager: **Paul Williams**
Webmaster: **Steve Johnson**
Show Bourse Manager: **Ron Feero**
Members at Large: **Ingo Nessel** and **Jerry Piotrowski**

Also at the meeting a motion was made, and unanimously approved, that based on his tireless efforts for the good of the club and philately in general **Bob Thorne** be made an **Honorary Life Member** of the Bramalea Stamp Club.

The theme nights for the balance of the year are:

Tuesday September 18: Birds
Tuesday October 16: Washington/Franklin
Tuesday November 20: Bridges
Tuesday December 18: Santa

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

The Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society is continuing the practice of joint meetings shared with the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club.

Our next meeting will be on the premises of DEPAG Agency, 14th floor at 67 Yonge Street on Thursday, September 27, 2007

The discussion of meeting venues continues to be a lively topic. Meetings will continue to be held in the office of DEPAG pending resolution of the issue. Visitors to the meetings would be well advised to phone Joe Janthur, (416)364-4112, to arrange entry as the building closes at 6:00 pm.

Our meeting on September 27 will feature the second part of our annual exhibition that, in May, was the victim of a schedule conflict for some of our members attending ROPEX.

In May, **Jo-Anne Peach** exhibited the topical collection assembled by her husband Don just before he passed away. We are pleased to learn that Jo-Anne will continue with the collection.



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.

Sept. 13: Clothesline Exhibit and members' buy/sell/trade night.

Sept. 15: Bourse with 20 dealers' tables and the Club's Circuit Books at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m .

Sept. 27: The History of the "Royal" Exhibitions in Toronto, speaker TBA.

Oct. 11: Speaker TBA.

Oct. 25: Fall floor auction of members' consigned lots. Guests are welcome and are invited to participate in bidding.

Nov. 8: One-page entries from the Royal will be presented and critiqued.

Nov. 22: Derek Paul, Philately of the Chalon Portrait.

Dec. 13: Annual Party with featured travelogue by Doug Irwin.

Dec. 15: Bourse with 20 dealers' tables and the Club's Circuit Books at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 10 a/m/ to 4 p.m.

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 fee has been lowered to \$5.00 for this year. Ample free parking. NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada as well as the GTAPA.

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



OSHAWA/WHITBY STAMP GROUPS

The Oshawa Stamp Group meets twice weekly. There is a \$10 annual fee to join Oshawa Seniors.

Tuesdays 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm
Northview Community Centre
150 Beatrice Street East, Oshawa

Fridays 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Legends Community Centre
1661 Harmony Road North, Oshawa

The Whitby Stamp Group meets weekly. There is a fee of \$1 per meeting with the proceeds to Whitby Seniors.

Mondays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Seniors Building
801 Brock Street South, Whitby

For information contact:

Larry Friend	905-723-8798
Gordon Wick	905-404-0796
Jim Stephenson	905-576-4449
Don Beaumont	905-426-3612
Ron Christie	905-432-7628



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 that 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 the club's director. For more information, contact: Ziggy at 416-454-2790 or bzygmunt@hotmail.com

"Troyak" Club next meetings are planned for September 30, October 28, November 25, and December 9, 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, please contact: **Janusz (Peter) Machulec** at 647-400-7857. www.troyakclub.com or info@troyakclub.com
New members are always welcome.

Robert Owczarz



'Fred, I think your special Alcock and Brown cover has arrived.'

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 **Owen White** at 416-481-4731 or by email at owen.white@sympatico.ca



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 in 2007 will be: Sept. 4 & 18; Oct. 2 & 16; Nov. 6 & 20 and Dec. 4.

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 further information contact **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 Street and 2 blocks east of Islington Avenue). There is ample free parking.

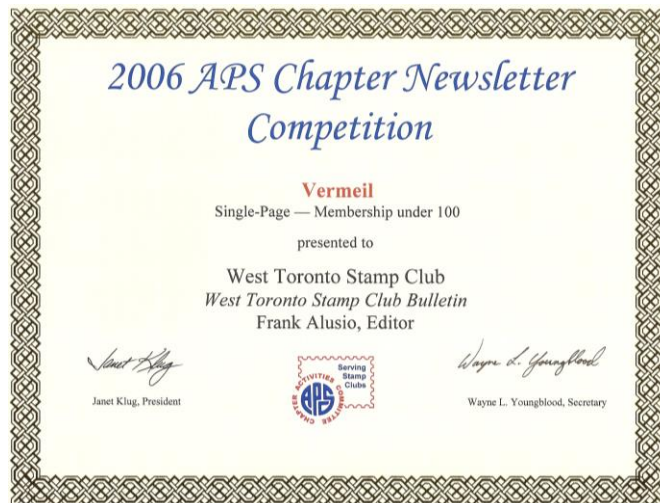
Membership Dues: \$20 per year for new members and \$15 per year for renewals.

The WTSC has been operating for over 70 years so its program is well established with respect to an award winning 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 including exhibitions. On June 19, 2007 the **Annual Everett N. Drake Trophy** (the 54th edition) took place. Four One-frame entries were exhibited; two in competition and two not in competition but evaluated. The evaluation was conducted by the attendees using the standard score sheet for local shows guided by Frank Alusio. The winner of the Trophy was **Denzil Fernandes** with his exhibit "*British India - Westward Sea Post Mail via Bombay*". The runner up was **Victor Skidra** with "*First Soviet Occupation of Latvia 1940-41*". The other two non-competitive exhibits were: "Giovanni Caboto and His Discovery of Canada" (**Frank Alusio**) and "The Half-Cent Small Queen" (**Garfield Portch**).

The 4th annual Single-page *Alusio Award* aimed to encourage members who are terrified to exhibit but willing to give a try --- **the Single-page display** --- will be held on November 20, 2007. For this event and others, members of other clubs affiliated with GTAPA are always welcome.

Great news to share --- The American Philatelic Society (APS) conducts an annual Chapter Newsletter Competition among its chapters. West Toronto Stamp Club, being one of the chapters, participated in 2006 competition for the first time with its bi-monthly *BULLETIN* edited by **Frank Alusio**.



On June 24, 2007 the editor received a congratulatory letter from APS as well the award list in which all the entries were posted with their respective awards. It was not a surprise that our *BULLETIN* received the Vermeil Award, the highest in the Class IIA Single-page --- Membership 5 to 99. Congratulations Frank!

Congratulations are also in order to **Garfield Portch**, the editor of *PhilaJournal*, for also receiving a Vermeil Award in the Class IV --- Federation.

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

Ted Swain



Is there something you want to see in *PhilaJournal*?

Contact the editor or your club representative.

The editor would also welcome your written submission.

WANTED

Refugee covers of the Twentieth Century, especially covers from Displaced Persons' (DP) Camps in Germany, Austria, Italy and the USSR from 1945-52.

CONTACT: Robert Pinet
robertpinet@canada.com

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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.

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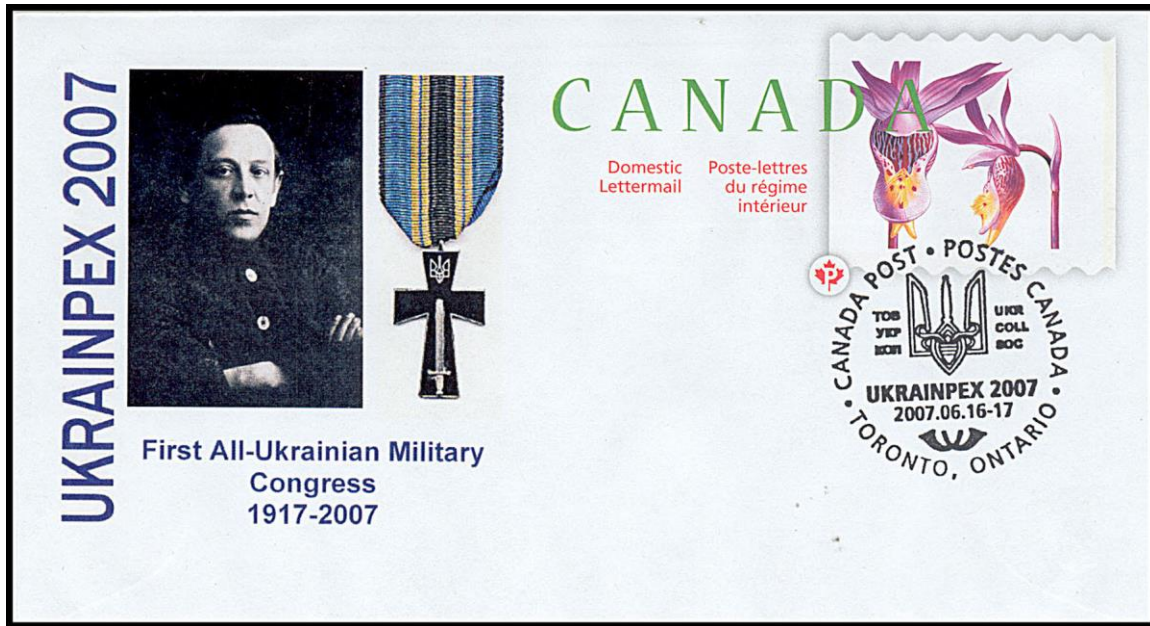
GTAPA

October 12, 13, 14, 2007

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

UKRAINPEX 2007, TORONTO

by Mark Stelmachovich, UPNS Lifetime Member #109



Fully five different commemorative covers were available during Ukrainpex 2007. Four being identical to the above pre-stamped cover in every way except for the stamp design itself, where the other three show other types of native Canadian flowers.

On the weekend of June 16, 2007, the Ukrainian Collectibles Society, Toronto (UCST) hosted a show that featured stamps, postal history, coins, documents, cards and other collectibles related to Ukraine and diaspora.

Taking place at the KUMF Ukrainian Art Gallery, the theme of the show featured the 90th anniversary of the "First All-Ukrainian Military Congress" held in May 1917 in Kyiv and chaired by Symon Petliura. Thus, what you see on the cover above is Petliura along with his military medallion namesake.

With over fifty frames of exhibited material, the show was honoured by being officially opened by the Ukrainian Consul-General to Canada, **Mr. Oleksandr Danyleiko**.

Two prominent international philatelic judges – **Frank Alusio** and **Andrew Cronin** – undertook the evaluation and grading of the competitive exhibits on Saturday morning. The results of the judging are as follows:

GOLD PLUS & BEST IN SHOW

- Lemberg: Postal History of Imperial Austrian Crownland; Inger Kuzych

GOLD

- Military Operations in Western Ukraine; Ron & Ben Zelonka
- The Czechoslovak Army in Ukraine; Roman Dubyniak & Peter Cybaniak
- Postcards of the German Buh (Bug River) Army; Roman Dubyniak & Peter Cybaniak

VERMEIL PLUS

- Military Censorship in Ukraine, 1914 – 1920; Ron & Ben Zelonka

VERMEIL

- The Definitives of the UNR, 1918 – 1920; Inger Kuzych
- Banknote Issues, 1918 – 1920; Jerry Kalyn

SILVER

- Ukraine in Old Postcards; Borys Zayachivsky

BRONZE

- Local Provisionals, 1992 – 1993; Jaroslaw Zastawny
- Chernobyl's Tragedy, 1986; Jaroslaw Zastawny

In addition to ten competitive exhibits, there were sixteen non-competitive presentations such as those of banknotes, coins, sports cards, posters and newspapers, medals and pins, and more, all of which demonstrated how diverse our heritage has been. An oft' heard comment was "I didn't know just how much Ukraine produced for such a short

period of time” referring to the classic era of 1918 to 1920 and the modern era of 1992 and on.

Our guests and fellow UPNS participants from the USA were both gracious and wonderful. As a group effort, this show was an incredible learning experience for me on so many levels, and, in fact, I am quite proud of having been involved.

The most fascinating Ukrainpex-2007 exhibit for me included Kuzych’s complete set of ‘Fieldpost Issues’ along with the lone surviving single overprinted 20-Hryven ‘Hetmanate State’ issue. Only fifteen were overprinted, but only one other is known on cover! Fortunately, Kuzych is quite certain that his unique set will never be broken up.

UPNS GENERAL MEETING

On Saturday afternoon, **Inger Kuzych** convened a meeting for all those UPNS members in attendance. Following a roll call, Kuzych completed a review of the UPNS’s achievements over the past year citing the following notables: -a publication by **Andrew Solczanyk** called *Chrisitanity in Ukraine: A Philatelic Survey*, as well as other notable publications.

Awards for 2006

- Kotyk Award for the Best Article: The Stanyslaviv Issues Re-Examined, by Inger Kuzych
- Maksymczuk Award for *Services to Philately*: the Ukrainian Collectibles Society, Toronto, accepted by President Jerry Kalyn
- Narbut Prize for the Best Stamp or Souvenir Sheet: yet to be determined as the UPNS is still accepting nominations

Amongst other details was an announcement by Inger Kuzych: “Since joining the UPNS in 1984, I have served as editor for eleven years, Executive VP for four years and President for eight years. I’ve done pretty much everything there is to do in Ukrainian philately, and am now eager to explore other fields, especially Austrian philately, since I am half Austrian.” In this fashion, Kuzych announced his intention to relinquish his post at the end of the current four-year term.

Few have served our society with as much honour and distinction. It goes without question that Kuzych can already be placed right up there with all the greats of Ukrainian philately, if only for his work ethic, let alone the other reasons. The website he created, the myriad of well-researched and interesting articles he has authored (and, no doubt, will continue to author), sponsoring the

Narbut prize, and so on. All of these acts of contribution out of his personal time speaks volumes to his passion and ours – Austrian philatelic societies watch out, you’re about to have a tiger on your hands!

FESTIVITIES

On Saturday evening, many of us attended the show’s banquet at the Golden Lion Restaurant (very traditional), affording us all the opportunity to get to know each other outside of the formal setting. The truth be known though, and oddly enough, the festivities actually started Friday evening at the hotel reserved for out-of-town guests. The author ventured to the hotel and joined our guests for one or two cups of tea!

PRE-STAMPED SHOW COVERS

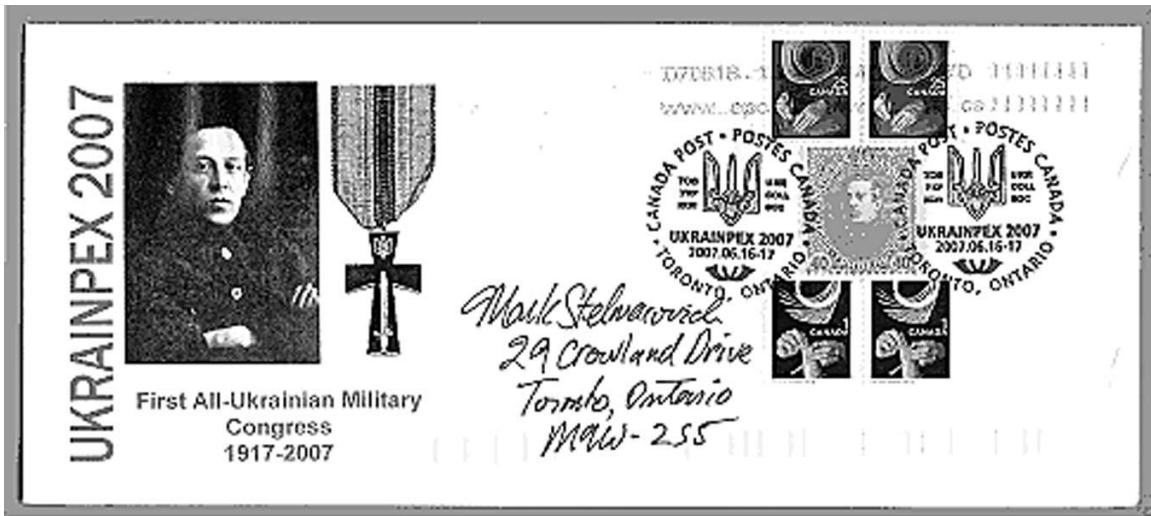
If anyone who was unable to attend the show would like to buy show covers, singles are available for \$5 (Canadian) each. As this is written, there are still a very few (less than 10) sets of four available. These sets will not be broken and are available for \$20 (Cdn) each. Make cheques payable to: Mark Stelmacovich, 20 Crowland Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M9W 2S5, Canada.



CONCLUSION

It was wonderful to meet many of the well known names from the UPNS in person. As importantly, our exhibition relayed a wealth of information to visitors and, as we all know, knowledge is power.

On November 16-17-18 this year, there will be another Ukrainpex in conjunction with a special Pan-Slavic Festival at Chicagopex. We in the UPNS will be joined by “Rossica”, “Polonus”, the “Czechoslovak Society”, as well as the Lithuanians, the Hungarians and many others. We hope to see you there!



This was the fifth cover available at Ukrainpex-2007. It was a blank letter-sized envelope-with-caché. Herein, you see that the author applied the current Canadian mailing rate of 52¢ along with the 9th stamp of the UNR's 'Vienna Definitive Set-of-14', the Symon-Petliura-40-Hyyven stamp. The exhibition's show-cancel was applied upon all affixed stamps, and the envelope was then addressed and properly mailed.



The Show Program



Judges – Frank Alusio and Andrew Cronin



At the frames



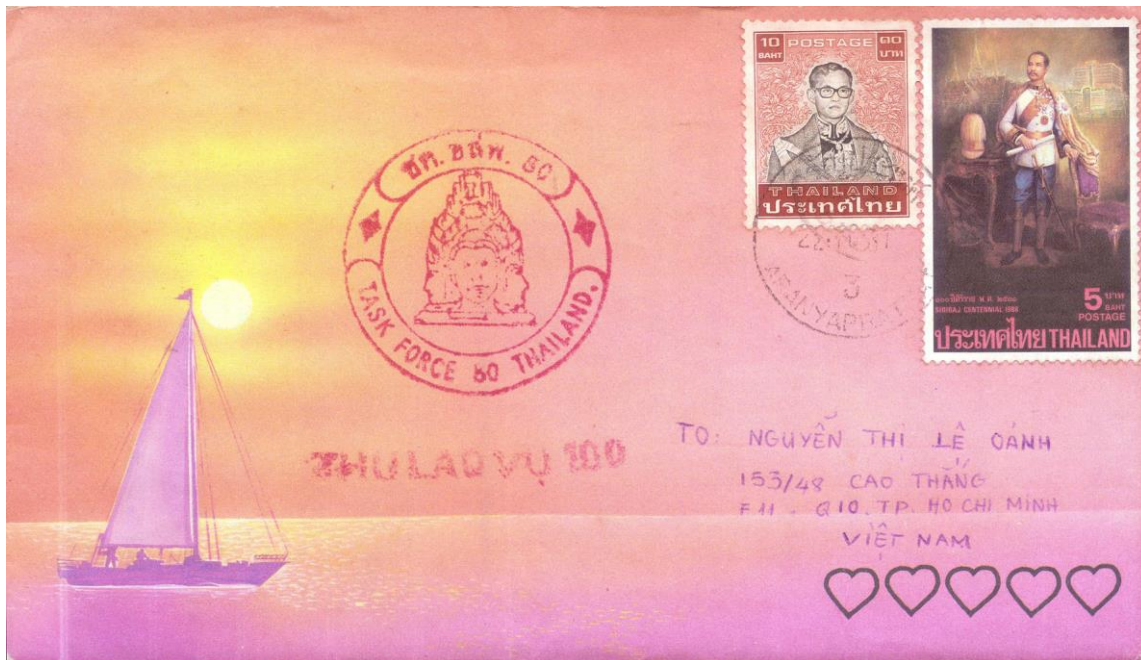
Club members and guests



Inger Kuzych and Jerry Kalyn

A Vietnamese Refugee Cover from Ban Thad Camp

by Robert Pinet



This piece of Thai postal history from 1988 helps tell a bit of the story of the Vietnamese living in Ban Thad Refugee Camp, along the Thai-Cambodian border. This pretty illustrated cover, addressed to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, features a sailing ship and 5 hearts and has some very interesting postal markings. These include a *Task Force 80 Thailand* hand stamp in red, another red hand stamp reading *Thu Lao Vu 100* and an Aranyaprathet (Thailand) cds dated 22/ 10/ ?? tying a 10 Baht King Bhumibol Adulyadej definitive (Scott #1090) and 5 Baht Centenary of the Sriraj Hospital featuring a painting of King Rama V, its founder (#1222). The back of the cover has a Ho Chi Minh City receiving mark dated 1/11/88.

A Vietnamese minority has lived in Thailand since at least the eighteenth century, according to Poole (1970) (1). For example, in the province of Chanthaburi, a Catholic congregation of Vietnamese was founded in 1707, and by the start of the nineteenth century, several thousand Vietnamese lived in Southeastern Thailand. Two huge influxes of Vietnamese refugees occurred between 1946 and 1948, during the French-Viet Minh War, and again from 1975 to 1980, following the fall of Saigon to the Communist North Vietnamese. . The refugees in Ban Thad were part of the millions who fled Laos, Cambodia, and

Vietnam and came to be known, collectively, as the Boat People.

Most of the 72 refugee camps or refugee processing centres which operated at different times between 1975 and 1999 along the Thai-Cambodian border housed mainly Cambodians or Lao, but Ban Thad Camp was one of the few which housed Vietnamese refugees, and it was run under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and not the Thai government.

The refugees in Ban Thad Camp, again unlike most others, were not Boat People. Instead, as Vo (2005), writes:

The Vietnamese interned in these [border] areas came overland through Cambodia: they were known as "Platform Vietnamese." During their journey, they suffered a lot in the hands of the North Vietnamese patrols stationed in Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge, and the Cambodian soldiers and bandits who controlled part of the country. They had to walk through mined areas along the Cambodian border before arriving in Thailand. Only 10 percent survived the horrendous land trip. (p.156) (2)

In February, 1988, following an upsurge in the number of boat arrivals, the Vietnamese were

transferred from Khao I Dhang , North West 9, and Northwest 82 Camps to Ban Thad and Site two camps. The latter they shared with Cambodians. (Vo, 2005)

Even in the camps, however, refugees were not safe from violence. They were robbed, kidnapped, raped, and murdered by thieves and soldiers. In fact, Task Force 80, the paramilitary security patrol whose hand stamp graces the cover, which was charged with protecting civilians in these Indochinese camps, was withdrawn from the border area by the Thai government in August 1988, after the Task Force was accused of human rights violations by the refugees (3). (This leads me to wonder whether this cover, cds October 22, 1988, had been sold pre-stamped, or whether the hand stamp was applied after-the-fact, for philatelic reasons.)

The *Thu Lao Vu 100* hand stamp also offers an interesting sidebar of information. It, as well as another hand stamp reading *Phat Namh 10* [or *100*] was applied to covers entering Vietnam. A rough translation of both is "Delivery Fee" and these fees varied from 10 to 100 Dong. Joe Cartafalsa, an expert on Vietnamese philately and a columnist for *Global Stamp News*, was kind enough to send me some information about these hand stamps, via Ellen Peachey, the hardworking and absolutely reliable Library Services Coordinator of the American Philatelic Society. Of these hand stamps, Mr. Cartafalsa writes, *They were originally called "capitalist fees" cause they always seemed to be from Western type nations but they were later found on incoming mail from Communist nations. Back in the late 1970s and 80s the mailmen were very underpaid and would solicit tips from people getting mail to give good service. The post office instituted these fees to create a fund to pay mailmen more. It had nothing to do with refugee mail - but there was a lot of incoming refugee mail from western nations starting in 1976.*(4)

The Banh Thad Camp was closed by the UNHCR in 1990, but it seems that about 1,000 of the Vietnamese refugees who had been housed there were living in Section 19, Site 2, along with 200,000 Cambodians, in 1992 (5).

While the story of the Indochinese refugees of the 1970s and 80s is a sad one, by 1979, the United States, France, Australia and Canada were beginning to open their doors to them. In fact, in that year, Canada accepted over 60,000

Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees. (6) Tens of thousands more followed.

References

- (1) Poole, P.A. (1970). *The Vietnamese in Thailand: A historical perspective*. Ithaca, NY and London: Cornell University Press, pp. 93-94.
- (2) Vo, N.M. (2006). *The Vietnamese boat people, 1954 and 1975-1992*. Jefferson, NC and London: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers.
- 3) New York Times. (1988, April 7). Archives. *Thailand to phase out unit accused of abusing refugees*. Retrieved July 20, 2007, from <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=940DE0D7163AF934A35757C0A96E948260>.
- (4) Personal e-mails of July 13 and July 16, 2007
- (5) Freeman, J. M, & Thuu, N.D. (2003). *Voices from the camps: Vietnamese children seeking asylum*. Seattle, WA and London: University of Washington Press, p.34.
- (6) News in Review (December 1997). *Was none too many?* Retrieved July 20, 2007, from <http://www.cbc.ca/newsinreview/dec97/gypsies/non e.html>.

UNUSUAL POSTAGE STAMPS

I suppose it should not be a great surprise that someone would see a "two for one" opportunity in the issuing of a stamp that could also be sold to collectors of baseball cards. In fact two countries did just that. In August 1992 St Vincent issued a set of 12 stamps (Scott 1693-1704) honouring some of the baseball greats of the past. The stamps were produced as individual self-adhesive imperforates on thin card. Each stamp measured 64 x 89 cm had a removable backing printed with the players statistics. In 1995 Guyana issued a similar item (Scott 2943a-l). These stamps were also printed as self-adhesive imperforates on thin card. Each one featured Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan in the uniforms of the four major league teams he played for, New York Mets, California Angels, Houston Astros and Texas Rangers.

If you have a story about unusual stamps and would like me to add it to future articles please email me at jerrypiotrowski74@hotmail.com using unusual stamps in the subject line or mail the information to me at 74 Glenmore Crescent, Brampton Ontario L6S 1H8

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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.

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