

# PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

Area Philatelic Alliance  
Greater Toronto  
**gtapa**

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## Come for the Ride



### The Third Annual *Harry Sutherland Philatelic Lecture*

The Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation and the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, invite members, friends and interested members beyond the philatelic community, to attend the third annual *Harry Sutherland Philatelic Lecture* on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at The Badminton & Racquet Club of Toronto.

The Guest Speaker will be Cheryl R. Ganz, Chief Curator of Philately, Smithsonian National Postal Museum who will present *Come Take a Ride on the Hindenburg*.

Cheryl will show selected items from her award-winning philatelic exhibit of mail covers from the Hindenburg, as well as memorabilia and artifacts salvaged from the wreckage.

The presentation will be of great interest to many people beyond the philatelic community. The end of the Hindenburg was one of the great disasters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The presentation will focus on much more than stamps and covers.

See the Messages from the President on page 4 for further details

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Scouts on Stamps International  
Toronto Stamp Collectors Club  
Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto)  
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"**

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

#### WEB SITE

[www.gtapa.org](http://www.gtapa.org)

## Unusual Postage Stamps

*Jerry Piotrowski*

The games for Euro 2008, the UEFA Football (Soccer) Championships, were this year co-hosted by Austria and Switzerland. To mark the occasion Austria issued an unusual stamp in March 2008. This self adhesive 36 mm diameter stamp was made out of the same material as used by adidas in the manufacture of the soccer balls for the games.



A second soccer special commemorative was issued by Austria in May 2008. This time the stamp was issued to commemorate the scoring of the winning goal by Austria in 1998 in their 1 – 0 win over Sweden en route to a World Cup appearance. Using the latest advances in lenticular technology which has been used in stamp production previously, the printers were able to produce an item which, when tilted at the right speed, produces three, almost video clip like images of the goal as seen from different angles.

The tiny country of Bhutan, which in 1973 issued stamps in the form of small (but playable) phonograph records, recently went higher tech than that. To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bhutan's monarchy they issued two stamps which are actually small CD-Rom's.

Enclosed in self adhesive wrappers and measuring about 4 square inches these CD's contain data titled "Bhutan: 100 Years of Monarchy" and "Bhutan: In Harmony with Nature"



Thank you to **Herb Kucera** of the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society and **Peter Butler** of the North Toronto Stamp Club for the initial information about these items.

If you have information about unusual stamps and would like me to add it to future articles on this subject please email me at [jerrypiotrowski74@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrypiotrowski74@hotmail.com) using unusual stamps in the subject line or send the information to me at 74 Glenmore Crescent, Brampton Ontario L6S 1H8

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# hilaJournal

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 *PhilaJournal* 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.

## Editorial Staff

Editor: Garfield Portch gportch@ca.inter.net  
Assistant: Peter Butler pbutler@ilap.com  
Assistant: Ernie Nyitrai enyitr618@rogers.com

## Subscription

Non-members wishing to receive *PhilaJournal* (four times a year), by ordinary mail, must send a cheque in the amount of \$16.00 to:

GTAPA Treasurer  
Box 45, 260 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5A 1N1

## Advertising

Anyone 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 (effective September, 2007)

Space	1 issue	4 issues
ToonieAd (Up to 5 lines)	\$2.00	\$8.00
1/8 page (bus card)	\$15.00	\$55.00
1/4 page	\$40.00	\$120.00
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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

Can you believe it --- we are entering the 7<sup>th</sup> year of *PhilaJournal* with this issue!

This summer while preparing a competitive exhibit, I spent some time reviewing type fonts and, as a result of my research, decided that it was time to change the look of *PhilaJournal*. I opted to use a classical font that I believe is easier to read. I will be happy to receive feedback.

In this issue, we owe thanks to several contributors. **Peter Butler** (North Toronto), **Larry Friend** (Oshawa), **Steve Johnson** (Bramalea), **Tony Manson** (SOSSI), **Alena Pascual** (North York), **Jerry Piotrowski** (Bramalea), and **John Wilson** (North Toronto) have been generous with their submissions.

With no major shows or events on our calendar for the 2008-09 season, I am hoping to get work done on my collection, my exhibits and my book (my great unpublished work). I wish everyone another great collecting season and suggest that you all take advantage of your GTAPA membership and visit another club.

*gjp*

## DEADLINE

The Winter Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of December. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

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## Messages from the President

### *Resources of the GTAPA Clubs*

As we begin another season of meetings, I would like to remind the clubs in the GTAPA of the resources that are available to them to use at meetings and their local shows. Here is a listing of the items with the contact person and a phone number to arrange for the use. Please try to make the arrangements well in advance.

- There are six sandwich boards (two-sided) to use indoors to mount announcements, directions or special events at your show. They can be placed on tables, on the floor in the aisles or in entranceways. You simply produce your signs and attach them to the boards. Contact: Peter Butler at 416-690-4666.
- There are two more sandwich boards with, "STAMP SHOW TODAY" with a large arrow giving the direction. These can be used outdoors at traffic intersections to announce your stamp show. Contact: Frank Lock at 416-282-8674.
- There is a laptop computer and projector to show PowerPoint presentations at club meetings. In order to use this equipment, one needs to have the presentation on a disk or a memory stick. The computer is not available to create the presentation. The request must come from a member who knows the operating procedures to use the equipment or is willing to learn at a demo meeting at the VGG Foundation. Contact: Peter Butler.
- There is a PA system suitable for use in a school gymnasium or auditorium. The speaker and amplifier is one easy-to-carry unit, with a 12 ft. cord and microphone to attach. Contact: Peter Butler.

Of course, there are exhibit frames available from several of the Alliance clubs. You must provide transportation to and from the show location. Your club president can tell you which clubs are closest that have frames.

The Alliance is in the process of creating two lists of human resources for club use. One will be a listing of presenters and their topics which they are willing to give at clubs. The other will be a listing of judges (qualified and unqualified!) that are willing to assist your club in holding a competitive or non-competitive exhibition. Until the lists are complete, please dialogue with your GTAPA representatives to

ascertain who might be able to assist your club with its planning.

### *An Invitation to the Third Annual Harry Sutherland Philatelic Lecture for 2008*

The Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation and the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, invite members, friends and interested members beyond the philatelic community, to attend the third annual *Harry Sutherland Philatelic Lecture* on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at The Badminton & Racquet Club of Toronto, 25 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto. (just west of Yonge Street) All members of GTAPA clubs are invited to attend.

The Guest Speaker will be Cheryl R. Ganz, Chief Curator of Philately, Smithsonian National Postal Museum who will present *Come Take a Ride on the Hindenburg*. Cheryl will show selected items from her award-winning philatelic exhibit of mail covers from the Hindenburg, as well as memorabilia and artifacts salvaged from the wreckage.



The presentation will be of great interest to many people beyond the philatelic community. The end of the Hindenburg was one of the great disasters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The presentation will focus on much more than stamps and covers.

- The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. There will be a cash bar and opportunities to socialize. At 7:45 p.m. there will be introductions, then the presentation, followed by a dessert & coffee reception.
- Tickets are \$ 5.00 and must be purchased prior to the event from: Peter Butler at 416-690-4666 or: [pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com) or Margaret Schulzke at the VGG Philatelic Research Foundation Office, 416-921-2073 or: [vggfoundation@on.aibn.com](mailto:vggfoundation@on.aibn.com)
- Written requests for tickets to: Harry Sutherland Philatelic Lecture, VGG Philatelic Research Foundation, 10 Summerhill Ave.,

Toronto ON M4T 2P1 (Please include a cheque to VGG and a return address.)

- Limited parking is available at the B&R Club. There is public parking across the street on the north side of St. Clair.
- A commemorative cover will be produced to celebrate the event.

For further information, please call Margaret Schulzke (Monday to Thursday) or Peter Butler, at the above phone numbers or e-mail addresses.

***Philatelic Book Sale at the VGG Foundation....  
And you're invited!***

The Library Committee has announced a date for the sale of duplicate and unwanted philatelic literature in the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library. This must be done in order to gain extra space for the collection and to display a great deal of literature that presently, cannot be put on the shelves. The Library Committee has graciously agreed that members of all GTAPA clubs could also be invited to this event. They may also stay for the PSS meeting and attend as guests for this one evening, if they wish.

To that end, the books and periodicals will be displayed on tables in the library on Wednesday, September 17th (regular Philatelic Specialists Society meeting night) so PSS members will have the first opportunity to purchase the books and periodicals no longer wanted. The sale will take place at 5:00 p.m. on that date and will close at 7:00 p.m. It will re-open at 9:00 p.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. There will be a limited amount of material free for the taking, other books will be in Dollar Boxes and others individually priced because of their rarity and/or popularity. All funds realized will be turned back into improving the library collection and the facility.

***Cash or cheques only please!***

***GTAPA Board Meetings***

The GTAPA Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, September to June, except in December. This announcement is just a reminder that all our Board meetings are open to members of the clubs that make up the Alliance. While we always make a special announcement inviting you to attend the annual general meeting in May, please be aware that the invitation is always open to attend any of our regular meetings also. Here are the dates for the coming year. Why not write them down in your daily planner and when convenient, join us for the evening.


All the meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the VGG Foundation, 10 Summerhill Drive, just east of Yonge Street. (one block north of the Summerhill Subway Station).

*September 24, October 22, November 26, January 28, February 25,  
March 25, April 22, May 27 (annual meeting), June 24.*

We would be delighted to see you attend any of our meetings and take part in the discussions.

***September Meeting Survey***

At one of your meetings in September, your president will be surveying members to ascertain interest and topics to be considered, for possible workshops or seminars that would interest you. The Alliance wishes to begin planning for some special events in the months ahead and would like to hear suggestions from the clubs' members as to what topics they would like discussed. Here's your chance to offer input to the Board directly, to consider ideas coming forward from you, the club members. Please send along your thoughts, we need your ideas and suggestions.



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# 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!*

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## A Semi-Official look at Canadian Semi-Official Airmails

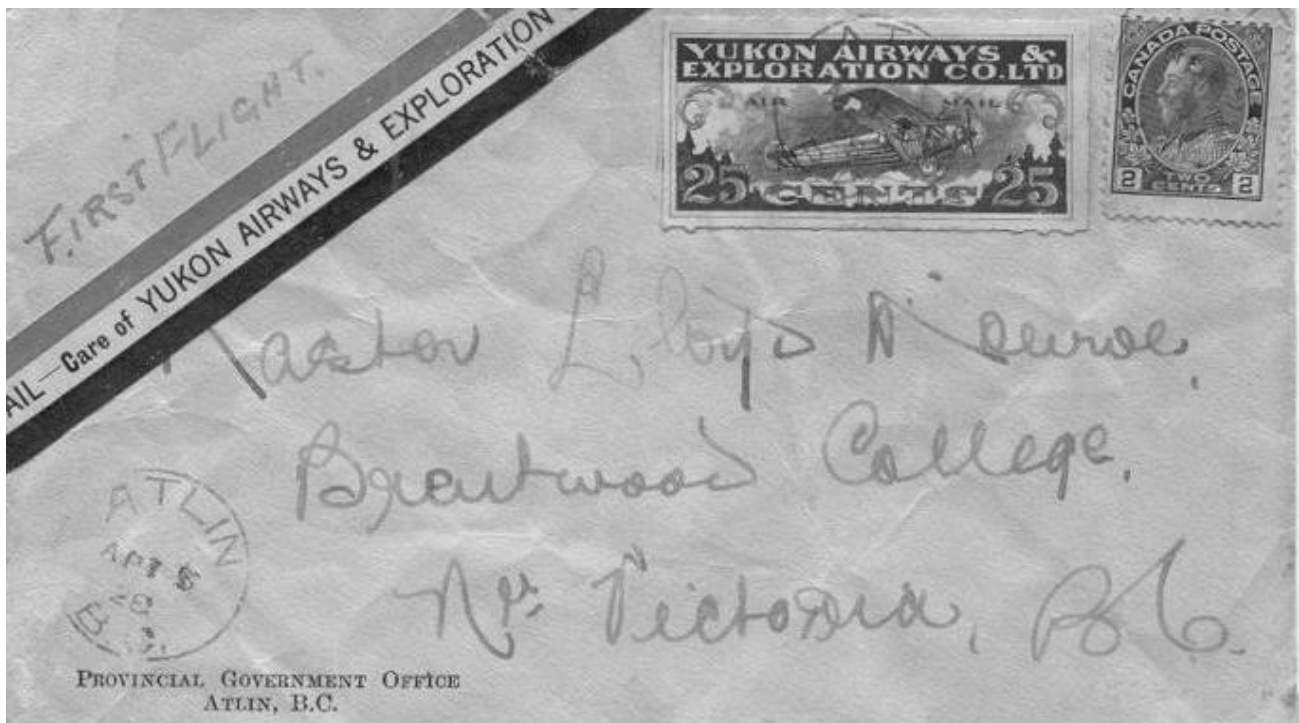
Steve Johnson

In recent years, Canadian Semi-Official Airmail has become one of the more popular areas in Canadian stamp collecting. It is a fascinating area to collect whether you are a topical collector or a postal history collector. The stamps are certainly colorful in design, almost just as colorful as the stories behind the stamps.

Semi-Official stamps were issued from 1924 to 1934 by small aviation companies with the purpose of charging a fee for airmail service. These stamps were privately designed and printed, however, postal

authorities in Ottawa had the right to approve or reject any design. Also aviation companies had to have a contract with postal authorities to carry airmail.

One of these companies was **Yukon Airways and Exploration Company Ltd.** This air service company began delivering airmail throughout the Yukon and northern British Columbia from November 1927 to November 1929. An example is shown below:



While most covers are philatelic in nature, the cover shown above is a commercial cover from the Provincial Government in Atlin to a Pastor at Brentwood College in Victoria, British Columbia. Brentwood College used to be located in Brentwood Bay (which is just outside of Victoria), until it burned down in 1947. The school was re-founded in its current location in Mill Bay (across the water from Brentwood Bay) in 1961. There are no records of a Pastor Lloyd in the school archives, however, during 1928-1929 the students were building a chapel and had visiting pastors come to the school.

Now for the twist!

The cover, while looking commercial, was actually never flown by Yukon Airways. The company plane, "*The Queen of the Yukon*", was to fly from Atlin to Carcross on April 15, 1928, then onward to Whitehorse on April 16, 1928. Since Yukon Airways was in the midst of a promotional tour to Atlin and Carcross, an interested person purchased a company stamp, franked an envelope and then sent to Brentwood College either by surface from Atlin, or at Whitehorse.

The lesson here for collectors of Semi-Official Airmails is to not only look at the stamp, but to be aware of the cancellation date. It's all part of the fun of collecting Semi-Official Airmails.

## GTAPA MEMBER CLUBS' NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### Bramalea Stamp Club

Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** (from 2 to 4 pm), October to June and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** (from 7 to 9 pm) all year at the Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd and Bramalea Rd.), Brampton. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information contact Bob Thorne at 905-792-3526 or email [r.thorne@sympatico.ca](mailto:r.thorne@sympatico.ca)

Check out our web site at [www.bramaleastampclub.com](http://www.bramaleastampclub.com)

The Tuesday Theme Night topics for the balance of the year are as follows:

September 16 Medical  
October 21 (Famous) Canadians on foreign stamps  
November 18 Thanksgiving  
December 16 Cartoons

Club member **Joe Trauzzi** has taken the initiative to produce a club newsletter. He intends to have 4 issues per year. Issue number 1 is already in the hands of club members and work is underway preparing the next one. An electronic version is available from Joe in Microsoft Publisher format. E-mail Joe at [jtrauzzi@yahoo.ca](mailto:jtrauzzi@yahoo.ca) and include "Newsletter request" in the subject line. Well done Joe!

*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 of Great Britain, Canadian branch, meets monthly (but not in July or August) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. The meeting place is the boardroom of Hampton Securities at 141 Adelaide Street West (southwest corner of Adelaide and York Streets), 18<sup>th</sup> floor at 5:00 p.m.

Meetings normally feature a speaker, a mini auction, sincere fellowship and many stamps to view and stories about them to enjoy.

Meetings usually adjourn about 8:00 p.m.

President: Joe Janthur 416-364-4112  
Secretary: Herb Kucera 416-494-1428  
Treasurer: Josh Hodgson 416-267-6749



### North Toronto Stamp Club

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

Upcoming Events

Sept. 20 & Dec. 6: Bourse at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

October 9: Toronto and its Post Offices with **Charles Livermore**

October 23: Fall Floor Auction

November 7: Philatelic Specialists' Society Annual Dinner at the National Club

November 13: Yukon Gold! With **Steve Johnson**

December 11: Christmas Theme Night

*Geoff Ewing*

### North York Philatelic Society

Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from September to June (July and August 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580



Finch Avenue West, Toronto, (2 blocks west of Bathurst Street). Everyone is welcome at any of our meetings. Membership is \$10.00 per year. NYPS is a member of Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Upcoming events of note

October 15, 2008 Club auction

March 28, 2009 NYPEX our annual show

April 15, 2009 Club auction

For more information about the North York Philatelic Society contact Mike Turk at 905-731-8380 or via e-mail at [turkm@accessv.com](mailto: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 4:30 p.m. at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario.

The Club's mailing address is: 2550 Goldenridge Road, Unit 46, 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](mailto:bzygmunt@hotmail.com)

"Troyak" Club next meetings are planned for September 28, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. and also October 26, 2008; November 30, 2008; December 14, 2008; January 25, 2009 and February 22, 2009. **March 1, 2009 - VI Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2009.** Refreshments are always available. The Club issues monthly info bulletins on its website.

For more info call: Ignacy Kania 905-273-7313 or Wieslaw Grzesicki 416-258-1651 or visit the website: [www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com) or [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com) New members are always welcome.

*Robert Owczarzewski*



## Maple Leaf Chapter, SOSSI Scouts On Stamps Society International

The Maple Leaf Chapter meets on the third Sunday of each month from September through May at 2:00 pm (coffee/cookies at 1:30 pm). Meetings are held in different locations within Toronto and southwestern Ontario.

The 2008/2009 Program includes:

Sep 21– Toronto- St. Paul's Runnymede Church – Summer Review

Oct 19 – Kitchener Scout House – Clothesline

Nov 16 – Toronto TBA – Auction

Jan 18 – Toronto TBA – AGM + “Stampo”

Feb 15 – Toronto - St. Paul's Runnymede Church - “Let's Make a Deal” day.

Mar 15 – Kitchener Scout House – Speaker

Apr 19 – Hamilton Scout House – Speaker

May 24 – Niagara Falls Scout House/Museum – Slide Presentation – Early Scout Stamps.

Contact: Tony Manson at (416) 447-4281



## Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club

Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club meetings are held on the second 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 8 p.m.. Business attire with a tie is a requested dress code at the RCMI.

“Our first meeting after the Summer break will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

Primarily a Business meeting, but all members are asked to bring a recent acquisition and “tell all” about how it was obtained and why it is so special.”

For more information contact

**Owen White** at 416-481-4731

or by email at [owen.white@sympatico.ca](mailto:owen.white@sympatico.ca)

## Scarborough Stamp Club

The club will continue to meet at the Cedarbrook Community Centre during the coming year. This year we will hold all our meetings in Rooms #1 and #2 on the main floor. Meetings will be on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The first meeting each month will be a trading meeting, and the club's circuit books will be available. At the meeting on the third Tuesday each month, there will be a short official club meeting, a members draw (you must be present to win), a draw for which members may purchase tickets to win philatelic prizes, and an auction.

There may be a speaker to discuss some aspect of stamp collecting, and of course the circuit books will be available. Meetings will officially begin at 7:00 p.m.

The dates of meetings will be:

2008: September 2, 16; October 7, 21; November 4, 18; December 2

2009: January 6, 20; February 3, 17; March 3, 17; April 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 16

For Information call

Doug Cockburn at 416 - 757 -4072

## Monetary Units

Most stamp collectors are familiar with the monetary units of countries around the world. How many of the following can you identify? Dalasy, Lari, Rupiah, Cedi, Krone, Rufiiiyyaa, Quetzal, Tughrik, Aksha, Rial, Pataca, Won, Kunda, Birr, Vatu, Panga, Riel, Dirham, Baht, Foorint, Lempira, Maloti, Bolivar, Colon, Sucre, Cordoba, Kroon, Koruna, Sum, Kip, Hryvnia, Emalangeeni, Shekel, and Somoni



### Did you know....

Fugitive ink, which ran if any attempt was made to clean the stamp, was patented by De Le Rue and used in the printing of fiscal stamps (from 1853) and postage stamps (from 1855). In the 1880's double fugitive inks (lilac and green) were used as an extra precaution.

*Guinness Book of Stamps*

## 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 Kaly**n 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 and 4th Tuesdays from September to June at the new location:

Eatonville Library  
1430 Burnhamthorpe Road,  
south-east corner of  
Burnhamthorpe and The East Mall  
east of Highway 427 in Etobicoke

### Schedule of Activities for the month of September

September 9: From 1:30 to 4:30 pm  
Opening at the new location, Refreshments,  
Exhibits, Dealers, Friendship, Meet Stamp  
Collectors  
From 7:00 to 8:15 pm: Silent Auction (lots \$3.00 -  
\$10.00) and Vocal Auctions (lots \$10:00 and  
over)

September 23: From 7:00 to 8:15 pm  
Silent Auction (lots \$3.00 - \$10.00) and Vocal  
Auctions (lots \$10:00 and over)

Activities during the months of October and  
November will be scheduled pretty well in the  
same fashion.

An invitation is extended to all stamp clubs, and  
their members, who are affiliated with the Greater  
Toronto Philatelic Alliance (GTAPA).

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

### West Toronto Stamp Club Board of Directors 2008-2010

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# Clippings & Commentary

snippets from the philatelic press that prompt reflections and personal stories

*Peter Butler*

## God Bless the World-Wide Collector!

*"Perhaps the bravest stamp collectors today are those who decide to collect, "The World". It is, literally, an impossible job to complete a collection of world stamps- there are too many unique varieties. But there are ways to approach it that can be very satisfying, and will yield a collection of which one can be proud."*

*John M. Hotchner, The American Stamp Dealer & Collector, Page 14, May '08*

Invariably, when I'm in a new crowd, at a barbeque or attending a celebration, and not knowing many people there, what usually follows the pleasantries, is usually, "So what do you do?" To which I respond that I'm enjoying retirement and my hobby is stamp collecting. (I never say philately!) There's often a glaze-over on the face of my new acquaintance, followed by, "Really... that's great... ah, what do you collect?" Do I say Canada, USA, Western Europe, Scandinavia (all eight countries), Japan and a whole raft of thematic topics? Sometimes, when I feel that the discussion is leading nowhere, I simply say that I collect, "The World," and leave it at that. Regardless, if I remain on either track, the best thing to say is, "So what do you do?" in return.

Now, in a group of unfamiliar stamp collectors, following the exchanging of introductions, one often hears comments of how the old days in the hobby were different .... and wouldn't it be great if? This is usually followed by, "So what do you collect?" When I hear from these long-time collectors such topics as; the Admiral issue, the Chalon heads of the Empire, advertising on the backs of New Zealand stamps or coils, *I* am the one who glazes over! If the collector says, "I collect everything!" I know this is going to lead to a great conversation.

If there's anything about the "specialist" that rings true, its one or more of these observations at club meetings and stamp shows. They never buy anything. There's nothing in the circuit books that interests them. They never bid on any lots at the club auctions. Dealers seldom can offer them material they don't already have. How boring!

Now to the world collector! *They* arrive at the club meetings an hour ahead of its start and by the time most members have arrived for the start of the meeting, they've already selected 125 stamps from the 10 cent circuit books and are as happy as clams. *They* always leave club auctions with one or more of the large lots of 500 stamps on paper in a biscuit tin or the package of 100 old circuit pages no longer in circulation and, they can't wait to get home and start

to work on adding hundreds of stamps to their collections. *They* are at the stamp show 30 minutes ahead of the opening, ready to dash to the dealers' shoe boxes of half face mint or the banana boxes of world-wide used at 5 cents a stamp. How exciting!

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was one of the world's most famous stamp collectors and a great ambassador of the hobby, not to mention his amazing dedication to the youth of his country to convince them to collect stamps. John Hotchner says that in Roosevelt's collecting fervor, he rejected no stamp of any nation. Yes, he collected, "The World." I rest my case!

Seriously, let's now have a deeper look at the world-wide collector. To me, the greatest enjoyment about collecting the stamps of the world must be that you can always have a busy time at a dealer's booth, at your stamp club and your local stamp store (Remember those?) searching for stamps. Trading with other collectors also offers great opportunities to find dozens of "needed" stamps. I do recognize, however, one downside to this type of activity. Upon arriving home and checking your albums, you always find that you have purchased too many stamps that you already own.

The challenges for world collectors are formidable and often the cause for dropping world-wide collecting in favor of a less demanding goal. With thousands of stamps being issued each year, it's impossible to get close to a comprehensive collection and that can be frustrating. Also, there is the possibility of becoming an accumulator rather than a collector. Storing away stamps in boxes for future action is not the way to go. The knowledge one gains about countries, personalities, events and cultures is amazing for the world collector. Research is exciting and one learns something new about our world every day. This is not possible if they are in boxes, hidden away.

Here are a few suggestions that I've picked up along the way from collectors who have adjusted their expectations of world-wide collecting to, in their view, a more manageable objective:

- Limit the time period to your world-wide collection. How about all issues prior to World War I, the Elizabethan era, nothing past the year 2000 or only stamps issued in the year you were born?
- One complaint from world collectors has often been the cost of supplements. There are a few options here to consider. Buy a basic, world, loose leaf album and a package of blank pages

from the same manufacturer. These can be photo-copied on good card stock and added as needed to your collection. Always have a few binders in reserve for the expansion of the collection.

- Today, to the computer-savvy collector, there is the opportunity to download album pages already created by someone else. There is also software available to make the creation of personal pages for your stamps an easy task. Both efforts keep the cost down so you can spend more money on stamps.
- If you do some research with the catalogues, you will note, regardless of the country, the thousands of stamps that are catalogued at the lowest price. Hotchner, for one, believes that you can often get to 70% of a country's collection by only buying the cheapest of stamps. When one is up to that figure, perhaps it's time to add another country initiative.

We have said it many times there is no right or wrong way to collect stamps. Years of enjoyment, happy memories and the interaction with good friends are yours to behold when you collect the world!

*"...if you want to have FUN, with a project that will always have a challenge, and you love to just handle stamps and watch your collection grow, The World is your oyster."*

*John Hotchner again...*

*same article!*

### **Did you know.....**

The longest route of a foot-post was that between Montreal and Niagara, a distance of 410 miles (660 km.). A regular mail service was established by George Heriot about 1789. A courier set out each January from Montreal, travelling on snow-shoes any carrying the mailbag over his shoulder. Averaging 15 miles (24 km) per day, it took him three months to complete the round trip.

*The GUINNESS Book of Stamps*

## **In Memoriam**

**Herbert Louis McNaught**  
**1919 – 2008**



We are sorry to report the passing on June 19, 2008 of Herb McNaught, a long-time member of the North York Philatelic Society and a member of the Philatelic Specialists' Society.

Herb was born in Harwood on August 12, 1919, the second son of Reverend Thomas McNaught and Martha McNaught. He and his three brothers were raised in the villages of White Lake, Balderson and Russell. Herb entered Ottawa Normal School in 1939 and left for his first teaching assignment in 1940 in the Skye Elementary School near Dunvegan. During the war, Herb joined the Twenty-third Field Ambulance Corps, Reserve and was slated to mobilize to Europe in 1946. In 1945, Herb joined the Kingston Public School System as a teacher, progressing to Vice Principal and Principal. He joined the Ontario Ministry of Education as inspector in the audio-visual department where he remained until his retirement in 1977.

Passions in his life included his stamp collecting, which he began in 1934 and his stamp exhibiting of his three gold medal collections - the Half Cent Small Queen, the 1897 Diamond Jubilee Issue and the 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Issue. Each of these collections has been published by the British North American Philatelic Society.



## Looking for a new and exciting interest to collect?

### LOCAL POST

Larry Friend

While new to these stamps, I am sure there are many of you who collect or at least had a look at some of the Local Posts around the world. I have concentrated on the British Isles – in particular the Outer Islands of Scotland, Wales, and Great Britain.



Most of these islands are uninhabited now but several flourished in the 1700, 1800 and into the early 1900's. Many are now aimed at tourism and have a resident summer staff. Sanda Island, Scotland has a permanent population of 1. He has built a Pub (Byron Darnton Pub) which attracts many boaters and has advertised on the internet for summer help to run the bar.

Not only are the stamps of interest and some cases beautiful – there is a tremendous treasure of history to these islands. There is evidence back to the Bronze Age – NO NOT STAMPS – but foundations of buildings – tools – graves etc.

One story to share – One of the last Viking Raiders lived on Gairsay Island with his 80 Warriors, They would winter on the island, in the spring plant their crops, in the summer go raiding Scotland and Ireland. He came to an untimely end as he got very ambitious and was killed while trying to conquer Dublin, Ireland in the year 1171.

Gairsay is one of the few Scottish Islands that still issues its own stamps as there is no Royal Mail service.

Several of the Scottish Islands produced their own stamps out of necessity as National Post Office (NPO) would not put a post office on some islands because of expense and the danger in the journey to pick up the mail. One man who lived on Summer Isles wanted the mail picked up and delivered 3 times weekly and the NPO suggested once a week – so he started his own Local Post service – in fact it is the only Scottish island that operates year round private postal service – a boat *The MV Patricia* crosses the sound of

Badenterbet carrying mail – 3 times weekly weather permitting.

Many of the islands that did produce their own stamps have stopped as they now have regular mail service from the NPO.

The stamps themselves are generally inexpensive and most readily available particularly through Ebay. On Ebay you can find upwards of 500 lots for sale just of the British Isles and thousands around the world

The stamps themselves are generally suitable to topical collectors – many use flowers, birds, fish, royalty, ships, trains, planes and so on.

There is an abundance of information available on the internet about each of these islands – along with pictures and stamp information. There are dealers who only deal in Local Mail Stamps and Cinderella's.

There are many types of Local Posts and Cinderella issues as follows:

**Public**, local delivery – stamps are used to prepay the delivery of mail within a region, there are a lot of collectors for this type of stamp

**Public**, national or international delivery – stamps are used to pay for transport of mail from an Island or place (that has no branch of the national Post Office) to the nearest branch of the national post (NPO). – again collectable

**Private** – Local stamps are used to transport mail from a place (that has no branch of NPO) to nearest branch of NPO (This type of stamp is usually used by one person, family or business – This kind of Local Post are purely philatelic and for fun – more like Cinderella stamps

**Railway (railroad) Posts** – stamps are used to transport mail from one train to another or station to station and then on to NPO – they are very collectable

**Airmail Posts** – Non government airmail stamps are used to transport mail from one place to another – also are very collectable.

There is an excellent source of info on the these stamps giving a little history about Local Posts and also lists which stamps qualify as or still in use as Local Post. It also helps you identify which stamps are Cinderellas from real places and Fantasy places along with Bogus Local Posts. **“Stamp Yellow Pages – Local Posts of the World”**

Many stamps have been produced by printers that are purely for collectors of these types of stamps and for tourists sold on the islands that are inhabited or anywhere they will sell.

Local Posts are fun to collect. While many purists would not give them a space in their collection, there is a club in Great Britain that boast over 500 members who collect mostly Cinderella's, Bogus stamps and Locals. In fact stamps are now being produced and put out as Locals strictly for the collector and tourists.

Some of the early Local posts can be expensive when found. One that comes to mind is Western Isles Rocket Mail. In 1934 an experimental rocket was designed to be used to improve mail service from remote locals. The first attempt was to carry mail from Scrap (which had a population of 100 at the time) to Harris Scotland. As you might have guessed, it failed as the rocket lifted off then promptly exploded. The second and last try had the same disastrous result. Now the stamps are still available at a reasonable price \$10 each (there were two different produced) however the letters (slightly burned) are very hard to find and expensive.



At any one time you can find at least 15 new locals that never have been or never will be but they come with a great story – a real place – history – nice stamp and great pictures. One such stamp was produced – listed on Ebay – looked crummy – but sold for \$15 even after the seller said it looked home made (it sure did). The very next week the man who produced the stamp put a block of 4 on Ebay – with a starting bid of \$4 - with a great story how this stamp could have been a real Local Post – to get mail from this particular island to the NPO – you guessed it - it sold for \$56.

Whether you are interested in collecting the genuine Local Posts of past and present or collecting any Cinderella or Bogus stamp that comes along, you sure will not be disappointed with the rich history and glamour that goes with this type of collection.

The Joy of collecting these Local Stamps, real, bogus or Cinderella's from the islands of Wales, Scotland and Great Britain has captured my imagination. Just think, I have my friend Jim Stevenson to thank for all this! I'm not sure my wife appreciates the time spent as she tells me I spend too much time on the computer and states "just wait until I get a hold of Jim"

Regardless I now have over 30 Islands covered with stamps and custom album pages and may more to go.

Happy times are busy times – particularly when you get to play with stamps.

\*\*\*\*\*

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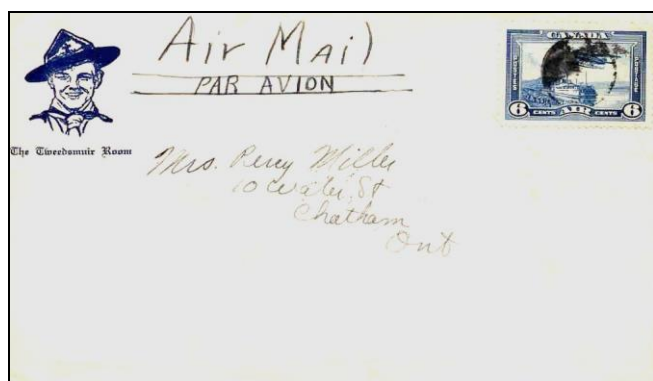
**DIRECTIONS**

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.

# A Wee Bit of Scouting History

Tony Manson

A single cover can open up a wealth of interesting historical information. This is the case in the one shown below.



The Scout picture and caption “The Tweedsmuir Room” at the top left was commonly used on Scouting correspondence for many decades in the early period of Canadian Scouting. This Air Mail letter is addressed to Mrs. Percy Miller, 10 Water St., Chatham, Ont. It has a single Air Mail stamp (Scott C6 – issued June 15, 1938), cancelled by the “half-moon” dumb killer cancel.

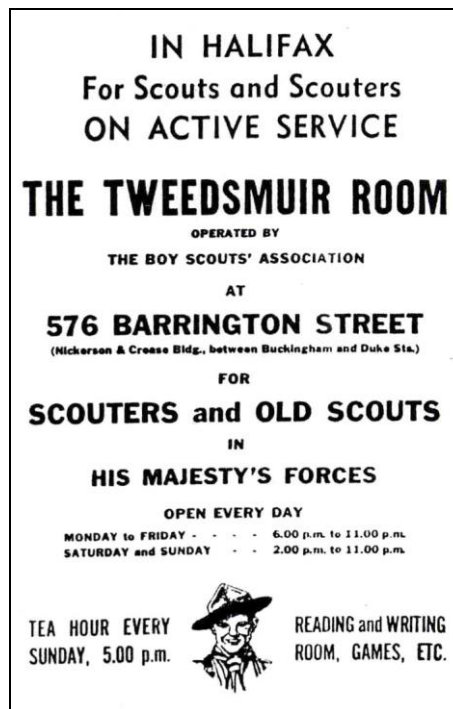
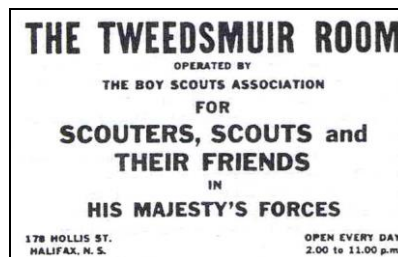


On the back is the sender’s address of Edgar L. Miller (perhaps a son?) from the RCN Barracks, c/o F.M.O., Halifax, N.S. F.M.O. stands for Fleet Mail Office. It also has a blue rubber stamp cancel “From H.M.C. Ship, Passed By Censor” with a date of Aug 2, 1941.

The book *The Left Handshake* (1948) by Hilary St. George Saunders, describes the efforts of Scouts worldwide during the Second World War. It states “In Nova Scotia the Tweedsmuir Room, called after Lord Tweedsmuir, was set up in Halifax as a place of refreshment for former Boy Scouts irrespective of rank”. It held afternoon teas, movies, a weekly dance and other activities, and Rangers (senior Guides) often acted as hostesses. It was for any Scout or Scouter (leader) from around the world who served in the allied armed forces. Monthly average attendance was about 800 and some 20 countries were represented throughout a typical year.

The following ads from the Boy Scouts Association’s wartime *The Canadian Leader* magazine show the first location of the Tweedsmuir Room was at 178 Hollis St. In

1942 they moved to a new location at 576 Barrington St. as shown by the second ad.



Records from The Tweedsmuir Room show that over 18,000 letterheads and 5,000 envelopes were supplied to visitors free of charge, and many of the callers had their home letters addressed to the Room.

Lord Tweedsmuir was Canada’s Governor-General (and therefore, by tradition, Canada’s Chief Scout) from 1935 to 1940. He was more famous however, as the noted author, John Buchan, who wrote such masterpieces as *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. He had spent two years on the staff of the High Commissioner to South Africa from 1901 to 1903, working on the reconstruction of South Africa after the Boer War. Thus it was very likely that he knew Baden-Powell who was in charge of the South African Constabulary at the same time. John Buchan later (in 1910) wrote another well-known novel, *Prester John*, an adventure tale set in South Africa. His term of office as Canada’s Governor-General was due to expire in November 1940, but he died in February 1940 in a Montreal hospital while undergoing surgery for a head injury sustained in a fall.

# Looking Through the Rear-View Mirror

John Wilson

An unremarkable cover can often illuminate more interesting facets of philately. The present example is monochromatic, battered, creased and torn, yet when researched earns its place in the collector's album.



Most stamp collectors are aware that hotels in the Alps issued carrier stamps to pay for the long trudge down the mountainside to the nearest post office. A group of hotels on the Rigi, over Lake Lucern, provided their own stamps from 1864 to about 1888. The Rigi-Scheideck Hotel issued this design (Fig. 1) in green, blue and finally rose. The *Handbook of the Private Local Posts* (Hurt and Williams/Williams, 1942-47, reprinted by Fritz Billig) makes this laconic observation: “The extension of the railway led to the suppression of the hotel post, and the stamps were withdrawn in 1881”.



The card we are examining explains, through its route markings, why the hotel stamps became obsolete. It also brings back the glory days of Swiss hotel tourism. Situated so as to take in a panoramic view of the Bernese Alps, the cluster of hotels atop the Rigi could give vast views over Lake Lucerne and its smaller siblings, the distant and brooding Monch and Eiger, and closer at hand, Mount Pilatus. Hotel visitors were often the well-to-do, advised to take rest cures in the clear mountain air. This card proceeds from an Italian vacation haven to a Swiss equivalent, and evokes a way of life familiar to us only from novels.



Turning to our trusty Baedeker (no collector of 19<sup>th</sup>-century issues should neglect travelers' handbooks like Baedeker or the French *Guides Bleus*) we establish that the Kurhaus Rigi-Scheidegg (as it is now spelled), at an altitude of 5460 feet above sea level, boasts 190 beds. It can be reached by the rack-and-pinion railway ascending from Vitznau to the Rigi-Kaltbad Hotel. This line was opened in 1871, and an extension to the Rigi-Scheidegg came into service in 1874. The ascent to the Kaltbad takes about an hour-and-a-quarter; that to Rigi-Scheidegg, a further 35 minutes for its five hundred feet of height.



The card in question was sent from Bellagio, at the junction of Lake Como and Lake Lecco – a sublime spot then and now (Baedeker: “perhaps the most delightful spot in the lake-district of N. Italy”). It received only one Italian postmark, but when it entered Switzerland the railway postal service (Ambulant No. 41) postmarked it – the same day as it was posted, though almost certainly the card had traveled by boat across Lake Como and come into Switzerland though the Saint Gotthard Pass. Interestingly, though the card was routed as if to Lucern, instead of being dropped of at Arth-Goldau, on the eastern side of the Rigi – where there was by the early twentieth century a spur line up to Rigi-Kaltbad – it instead went to the western side and was clocked in at both Vitznau and Rigi-Kaltbad. The final marking is a blue-pencil ‘156’. Is it too fanciful to suggest that this was the room number of the addressee?

The writer was sending a quotation on the cost of fabric for clothing to someone at the Kurhaus. Perhaps then, as now, it was difficult to get away from the office!



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### *ATA's TOP TEN ..... BUT NO LIGHTHOUSES* *Peter Butler*

The American Topical Association (ATA) has recently announced some interesting stats about what topics their members collect. Ray Cartier, the Executive Director of the organization, was quick to announce that the numbers were not taken from a formal survey with that intent but rather from the 5,100 returns requesting that members send in certain information to be placed in the ATA's 2008 Membership Directory. The last set of stats on the topic was shared with members in 2003.

Ray listed the topics that were provided on the recent member's information page, categorized them and created a top-twenty listing. It's interesting to note that 15 of the most popular topics were also on the list of 2003, indicating that there is little shifting of what topics interest collectors.

Winning out this time is the broad topic of animals, perhaps no surprise given the interest in how global warming, pollution and the destruction of habitats is effecting the animal kingdom. I would suspect that the category included everything from the World Wildlife Fund to teddy bears and from exotic jungle animals to pets. The most popular animal, by a long shot, was

cats polling the same numbers as five years ago. Here's the list of the top ten topics:

1. Animals (Granted, it's a huge topic, [domestic/wild, polar/tropical, zoos, etc.] )
2. Famous Men (I would have liked, "famous people" so women could have been included.)
3. Medical Subjects, including Nursing (Here's another huge area of interest.)
4. Sports (I'll bet the Olympics interest was a factor.)
5. Flowers and Plants and their products (number one in the last list)
6. Religion /Religious (Jumped a few points from the last survey, which is interesting considering the shrinking number of churchgoers.)
7. Birds (always in the top group, given the amazing beauty of printing excellence today and the fact that they as almost always issued in sets)
8. Railroads/Railways (one of my favourites and the topic that I've been collecting the longest)
9. Americana (tied with Railroads for the eighth spot)
10. Ships (another large topic including sails/steam, transportation/liners, warships etc.)



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## AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

*Alena Pascual, ATA Representative*

One of GTAPA's affiliations is the American Topical Association – we are Chapter 109 of the ATA. Currently, to my knowledge, there are seven ATA members among the GTAPA clubs. In order not to have to pay the annual ATA membership fee, a minimum of six members is required. This means that being an ATA affiliate is cost-effective for us.

Among the benefits of being an ATA affiliate is that we receive ATA's journal of thematic philately, *Topical Time*. Published six times a year, *TT* contains a wide selection of feature articles. The May-June 2008 issue, for instance, includes articles on subjects such as corks and corkscrews; Canadian fictional heroines Anne of Green Gables and Maria Chapdelaine; the symbolism of flowers; and operatic characters Carmen and Papageno. In addition, each issue carries a number of regular features which are

very helpful to the topical collector, such as "Topical Meter Stamps", "Topical Postal Stationery", "Topics on Postmarks", to name just a few.

This brings me to another benefit. Among the regular features in *TT* is one called "Chapter Chatter". Frederick Skvara is the Director of ATA Chapters. A requirement of ATA affiliation is that we send *PhilaJournal* issues to Dr. Skvara. He in turn prepares a report about GTAPA activities for publication in his column. This allows clubs to share ideas and also provides publicity for member clubs.

Information about the ATA may be found at [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org). Issues of *TT* are available for consultation at the library of the V. G. Green Research Foundation.

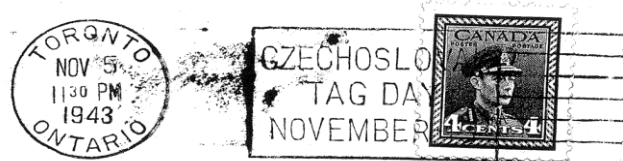
## CZECHOSLOVAK TAG DAY: A SLOGAN CANCEL

*Alena Pascual*

During the Second World War, tag days were frequently held in Canada in order to raise funds for patriotic purposes. A tag day was an effective way of raising money. Taggers would solicit donations from passersby. These would be acknowledged by means of a tag which was attached to the donor's lapel.<sup>i</sup>

Following the 1938 Munich Agreement, Edvard Beneš resigned as president of Czechoslovakia. He and other exiles subsequently organized a Czechoslovak government-in-exile in London. In October 1940, the Canadian government was the first to recognize the Beneš government in exile. Recognition from Great Britain, followed by the United States, came in June 1941.<sup>ii</sup> In 1942, Britain and France formally repudiated the Munich Agreement, which conferred *de jure* legitimacy on Beneš's presidency and the continuation of the First Czechoslovak Republic. When Bohemia and Moravia became a Nazi Protectorate, the Czechoslovak Army was disbanded. Many Czechoslovaks escaped abroad to join allied armed forces.

Czechoslovak Tag Day, which took place in Toronto on November 13, 1943, was one of the few which were publicized through the use of slogan cancels. The purpose was to collect money mainly to provide exiled Czechoslovak soldiers serving on Allied fronts with personal parcels from Canada.



A letter from Karel Buzek of the Czechoslovak National Alliance in Canada appeared in the November 8, 1943 issue of the *Toronto Daily Star*, asking for volunteer taggers to help. The November 12, 1943 edition of the *Star* carried an item headed "Help the Fighting Czechoslovaks" which exhorted readers to be generous in supporting this cause and "show to these splendid people how well they are regarded by their allies". Another letter from Mr. Buzek was published in the November 27, 1943 *Star*, thanking the public for their support; the 3000 taggers raised over \$11,000.00 in street collection, despite the "very grim" weather. Another \$4,300.00 in cheques had so far been received at the Czechoslovak National Alliance offices.

One of the taggers was Gabrielle Dobíáš, a Toronto pianist of Czechoslovak origin. Several months before Czechoslovak Tag Day, on May 7, 1943, an Evening of Czechoslovak Music and Gymnastics was held at the Eaton Auditorium in Toronto. The program was presented by the gymnastic association Sokol (which was under the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario) "to provide comforts for the fighting Czechoslovak forces with the Allies abroad", with proceeds going to the Czechoslovak War Charities

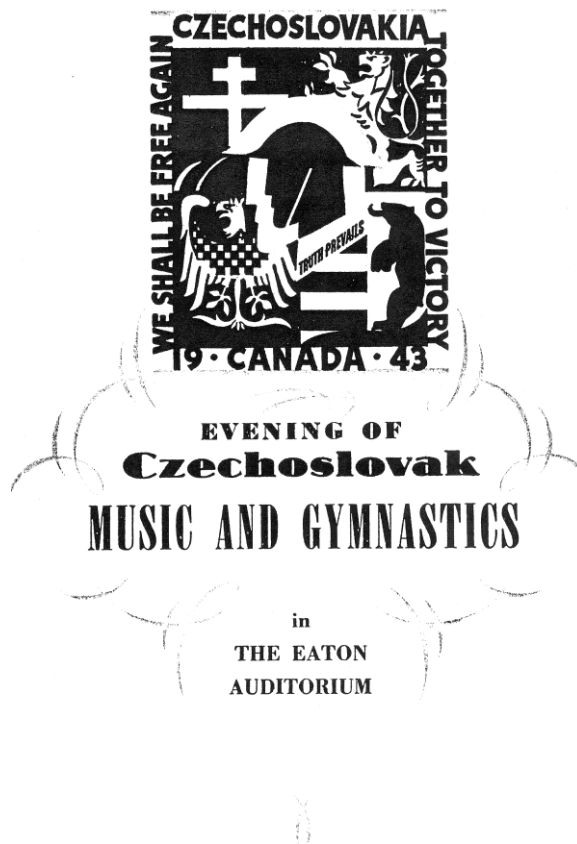
Fund. Capt. Horace H. Van Wart, Czechoslovak consul in Toronto, gave the opening address. Gabrielle Dobíaš accompanied violinist Charles Dobíaš in works by Czech composers Smetana and Dvořák. Incidentally, another pianist who appeared on the same program was a Toronto composer and performer of Czech origin, Oskar Morawetz.

According to Cecil C. Coutts <sup>iii</sup>, the earliest reported date of the Czechoslovak Tag Day cancel was Nov. 3, 1943, with the latest reported date being Nov. 13, 1943. Mr. Coutts has kindly provided me with a list of 24 tag day slogans. These were in use between 1928 and 1951, all in Toronto. More than half (13) were for Children's Milk Fund tag days. During the Second World War there were a number of tag days to raise money to support allies, but slogan cancels were not issued for all of them. Support Aid To Russia Tag Day was held on January 30, 1943, while Netherlands Relief Fund Tag Day took place on September 18, 1943. Slogan postmarks were issued for both these events. Also, there were a number of other slogan cancels related to the war effort, such as Buy Victory Bonds, Give to Toronto's War Fund, Support the Scrap Metal Drive, and Save Metals Rags and Waste Paper, to name a few.

I also have an example of a Second World War label, used on the back of an envelope postmarked Toronto, May 2, 1944. The label includes elements of the Czechoslovakian coat of arms. The text in the margins reads: "We shall be free again"; "Czechoslovakia"; "Together to victory"; "19 Britannia 42". "Canada" appears beneath the stylized soldier in the middle of the label.



A reproduction of the label was featured on the cover of the May 7, 1943 program mentioned earlier in this article. There are a couple of differences. The text along the bottom margin in this case reads "19 Canada 43", while the text in the middle of the label is "Truth prevails". This is a translation of the motto which appears on the Great Coat of Arms of Czechoslovakia.



FRIDAY, MAY SEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTY-THREE AT EIGHT-THIRTY O'CLOCK

I inquired if the Postal Archives at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) have a file on this particular slogan cancel, as I was interested in learning the history behind it. An LAC reference librarian informed me that he was unable to locate such a file in the Post Office Department fonds.

Any additional information which readers could provide in reference to the above would be most welcome. I can be reached via e-mail at < alenap1@sympatico.ca >.

<sup>i</sup> Durlinger, Serge Marc. *Fighting from home; the Second World War in Verdun, Quebec*. Vancouver, Toronto: UBC Press, 2006. p. 60.

<sup>ii</sup> Čermák, Josef. *It all started with Prince Rupert: the story of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada*: [Zlín]: Atelier IM Publishing, 2003. p. 156.

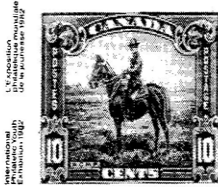
<sup>iii</sup> Coutts, Cecil C. *Slogan postmarks of Canada: catalogue and guidebook*. 3d ed. Agassiz, B. C.: Agassiz-Harrison Printers & Stationers Ltd., 2007.

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## **The Stamp Collector** by Robert Service

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,  
My life collection of rare postage stamps;  
My room is cold and bare as you can see,  
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;  
Yet more to me than balances in banks,  
My albums three are worth a million francs.

I keep them in that box beside my bed,  
For who would dream such treasures it could hold;  
But every day I take them out and spread  
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:  
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,  
I would defend them with my very life.

They *are* my very life, for every night  
Over my catalogues I pore and pore;  
I recognize rare items with delight,  
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;  
And when some specimen of choice I buy,  
In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;  
To pay its price I starved myself a year;  
And many a night my dinner I would lack,  
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!  
Hitler made war that day - I did not care,  
So long as my collection he would spare.

Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.  
To purchase it I had to sell my car.  
Now in my pocket for some *sous* I grope  
To pay my omnibus when home is far,  
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,  
In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,  
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found  
This *franc* vermilion, eighteen forty-nine ...  
How painfully my heart began to pound!  
(It's weak, they say) I paid the modest price  
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,  
I might discover a Mauritius blue,  
Poking among the stamp-bins on the *quais*;  
Who knows! They say there are but two;  
Yet if a third one I should ever spy,  
I think - God help me! I should faint and die ...

*Poor Monsieur Pons, he's cold and dead,  
One of those stamp-collecting cranks.  
His garret held no crust of bread,  
But albums worth a million francs.  
On them his income he would spend,  
By philatelic frenzy driven:  
What did it profit in the end ...  
You can't take stamps to heaven.*

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