

# Phila Journal

The Official Publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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Visitors are welcome.

**We work best when we work  
together**

## WEB SITE

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

## Clippings & Commentary

by Peter Butler

There are two stories connected to the clipping below, both concerning one of Canada's great icons who bridged the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with major accomplishments in several fields of endeavour. His name is Sanford Fleming and philatelists will know him as the designer of Canada's first postage stamp, the famous three penny "Beaver" of 1851. Historians of Canada's great western expansion and enthusiasts of railroad construction generally, will know him as the key figure in every facet of the growth and development of our rail system, east to west.



*"Breakfasted at Elish's Hotel with Mr. Rutten and the Honorable Jas. Morris, Postmaster General, designing postage stamps for him."* This was the entry in Fleming's diary for February 24, 1851.

What is perhaps less well-known is the fact that Fleming, at the invitation of the Postmaster General had submitted two designs, one for the three penny and one for the twelve penny denomination stamps. Both designs incorporated the beaver in the design, from which lithographic plates would be produced. Essays were then printed in small numbers on thin yellowish paper. Soon after, however, the twelve penny design was scrapped, not only on the grounds that the same design on the two stamps might lead to confusion but because the higher value stamp was for overseas mail. The design was considered less appropriate than an image of Queen Victoria on stamps travelling from the colony to England.

At no time did the postal authorities consider printing the stamps in lithography, a crude method at best in those days and one which lent itself to forgery quite easily. As early as 1849, the Legislative Assembly had authorized that production of stamps should be by engraving. At that time, no printer in Canada had the technology to produce engraved stamps so, reluctantly, the Postmaster General turned to the United States and awarded Messrs Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson of New York the contract to produce the stamps.

*Continued on page 2*

Clippings (cont)....

(Later, RWH&E would become the American Bank Note Company while being the printing contractor for the United States Post Office.) The fact that Canadian stamps were being printed in the United States did not sit well with many Canadians and it did become a political issue. Concerns about quality control and the selection of paper, “laid” paper vs. wove paper, were often raised and debated in the Legislature.

The three penny beaver stamp, however, remained in use for 17 years, apart from the change to 5 cents in 1859 when Canada changed to the decimal system. This alone would vindicate Fleming from any of the problems that were created by the US involvement and remains one of his greatest memorials to this day. To philatelists, it is ironic that the stamp design story was the least of his many achievements. But that’s for another column!

The second story comes from a reading of an article written in the July 1951 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, that announced the mounting of a plaque by the Canadian Philatelic Society, in the main entrance of the Canada Trust Building at 110 Yonge Street in Toronto. The occasion was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the issue of the three penny beaver stamp on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1851. (The plaque was actually unveiled on September 26<sup>th</sup>, during CAPEX ’51. The cost of the plaque and its mounting was defrayed by individual contributors and stamp club donations.) The Canada Trust Building was on the very site of a two-storey building that had originally housed Sanford Fleming’s drafting and surveying office, on the 2nd floor, where he had worked on the designs of the beaver stamps.



After reading this piece, I began to wonder if the plaque might still be there and, more to the point, was the building still there. I decided that on my next excursion downtown, I would take a few minutes to investigate 110 Yonge Street. I did have a small B&W picture of the Canada Trust Building as it looked in 1951, (illustrated nearby) from an advertisement in the CAPEX program.

As I had thought, the building had long since been destroyed but in its place, a new Canada Trust Building

had been constructed in 1967. Was the plaque still there?



110 Yonge Street in 1851

Sure enough, walking up Yonge Street and coming to a stop in front of the building at 110 at the corner of Yonge and Adelaide Streets, with a TD Canada Trust Bank on the main floor, there it was for all passers by to see.



110 Yonge Street in 1951 and 2007

I was told by the receptionist, inside the building entrance, that the plaque is a very popular destination for many groups throughout the year participating on Scavenger Hunts. “Why’s that?” I asked. She told me that a favourite question on their lists is, “What’s the date of issue of Canada’s first postage stamp? (Look around Yonge & Adelaide.)”

The receptionist also mentioned that there was an Archives Room on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor that I could visit, if the archivist was there. She was, and I had a brief tour of the “museum,” the bookshelves and viewed the many portraits of bankers and other significant people in the history of the Toronto banking community.

Continued on page 4

# 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 *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.

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## Editorial Staff

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Assistant: Ernie Nyitrai enyitr618@rogers.com

## Subscriptions

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GTAPA Treasurer  
Box 45, 260 Adelaide Street East  
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Ernie Nyitrai at 905-477-1511  
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Banner (1" x 5", front page)	\$50.00	\$200.00

Your feedback is important to us. If anyone has any philatelic item for publication, or any suggestions to improve *PhilaJournal*, please contact the editor. This is the medium that keeps the members of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance in touch and informed.

This publication is made possible by the contributions of the advertisers. Do patronize them whenever possible.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am pleased to present the following rarity - a "Letter to the Editor" to replace my quarterly commentary. Thank you for your comments George.

gjp

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy receiving and reading *PhilaJournal*. I ended up paying you the supreme compliment - I tore it up!

Don't misunderstand that; what I mean is that I kept several articles from it to send on the others or to photocopy, which was the case with the quaint but intriguing Robert Service poem on stamp-collecting. The cartoon and the philatelic articles also made for interesting and/or amusing reading.

Above all, your layout and production values are outstanding.

As you may or may not know, with Charles Verge's initiative I am trying to get a club newsletter competition going across the country. *PhilaJournal* reminds me that we may need a separate category for newsletters of associations of clubs, although the Grand News from the GRVPA is the only other one I'm aware of at the moment.

Keep up the great work; your newsletter is a model to all those who are fortunate enough to see it.

George Pepall, FRPSC

## DEADLINE

The Spring Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of February. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, 2009.

## In this issue

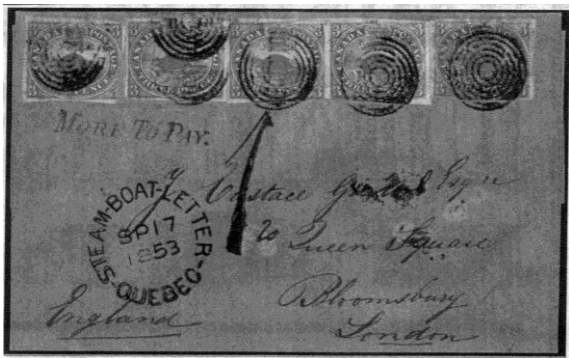
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Clippings (cont)....

Unfortunately, there were no other pictures of the earlier buildings, of Sandford Fleming or his office.

The whole experience was a pleasant surprise. I felt good about the fact that the plaque had been retained from the wreckage of the old building in 1967 and remounted on a marble panel street side on the new building, for all to see. How many times had I walked past the plaque and never noticed it or stopped to read it?

On arriving home, I happened to pick up the latest issue of *Canadian Stamp News* from the mailbox. There on the cover was the image of a magnificent cover from a Charles Firby Auction catalogue. (shown below) Imagine, five # 1's, not quite enough postage to get the letter to England via a steamer out of Québec City mind you, but a magnificent philatelic item to be treasured by some lucky collector!



I wondered if the price realized from the sale of this cover in today's world would have been sufficient funds to have paid for the construction of the first Canada Trust Building which followed the small building where the designer of the stamp went to work each day, to map railroad routes, design bridges and track lines and hire thousands of men to build the railroads. Oh, and design a few stamps of legendary significance to our fledgling country, during his coffee breaks!

Next time you are strolling on Yonge Street, stop at number 110 and soak up a little bit of Canadian history... and postal history too. Imagine a Canadian icon, our first stamp, four different buildings and a plaque tying it all together. It will do your soul good!

### **Messages from the President**

In the first *PhilaJournal* of this year, I mentioned that the Board had asked the club presidents to survey their members to see if there were a few topics that would interest them if we were to organize Saturday workshops at the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Foundation (where the Alliance holds its monthly meetings) for them to attend.

A few topics came forward but the use of the computer in all aspects of the hobby dominated the list.

Several ideas were mentioned: using your computer to download album pages or create you own, using your computer to create exhibit pages and using your computer to get involved on Ebay. The latter suggestion seemed to be the most popular, probably due to the fact that one of our presidents, Larry Friend of the Oshawa/Whitby Group is an Ebay instructor with a few different organizations and he offered to be involved in the GTAPA plan.

Here is the information you need to act on, if you are interested in signing up for our *Ebay and Your Computer* workshop:

- While not mandatory, it is strongly suggested that you bring a laptop computer to the workshop. You could work in pairs but one person must have a computer.
- The first workshop will be held on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the VGG Philatelic Foundation at 10 Summerhill Ave., Toronto. It's the first door east of Yonge Street on Summerhill Ave.
- Session I will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by a lunch break at noon, at a restaurant across Yonge Street. Session II will begin at 1:00 p.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m.
- The instructors will be **Larry Friend** and **Lawrence Worrall**, both members of the Oshawa/Whitby Group. Being stamp collectors really helps!
- The cost of the workshop will be \$10.00 per person.
- Workshop attendees will be limited to twenty members. This is governed by the space and tables available and the electric outlets in the VGG meeting room.
- To Register for the workshop, you must e-mail me ([pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com)) with **"GTAPA Workshop"** in the **Subject box of your message, before December 29, 2008 and a cheque for \$10.00 made out to the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance and sent to: GTAPA Treasurer, Joe Janthur, GTAPA, P. O. Box 45, 260 Adelaide St. E. Toronto ON M5A 1N1, to arrive no later than the above date.**
- You need do nothing in preparation for the workshop. The first task on the day will be to register online so you will be able to walk through the process first-hand with the instructors.

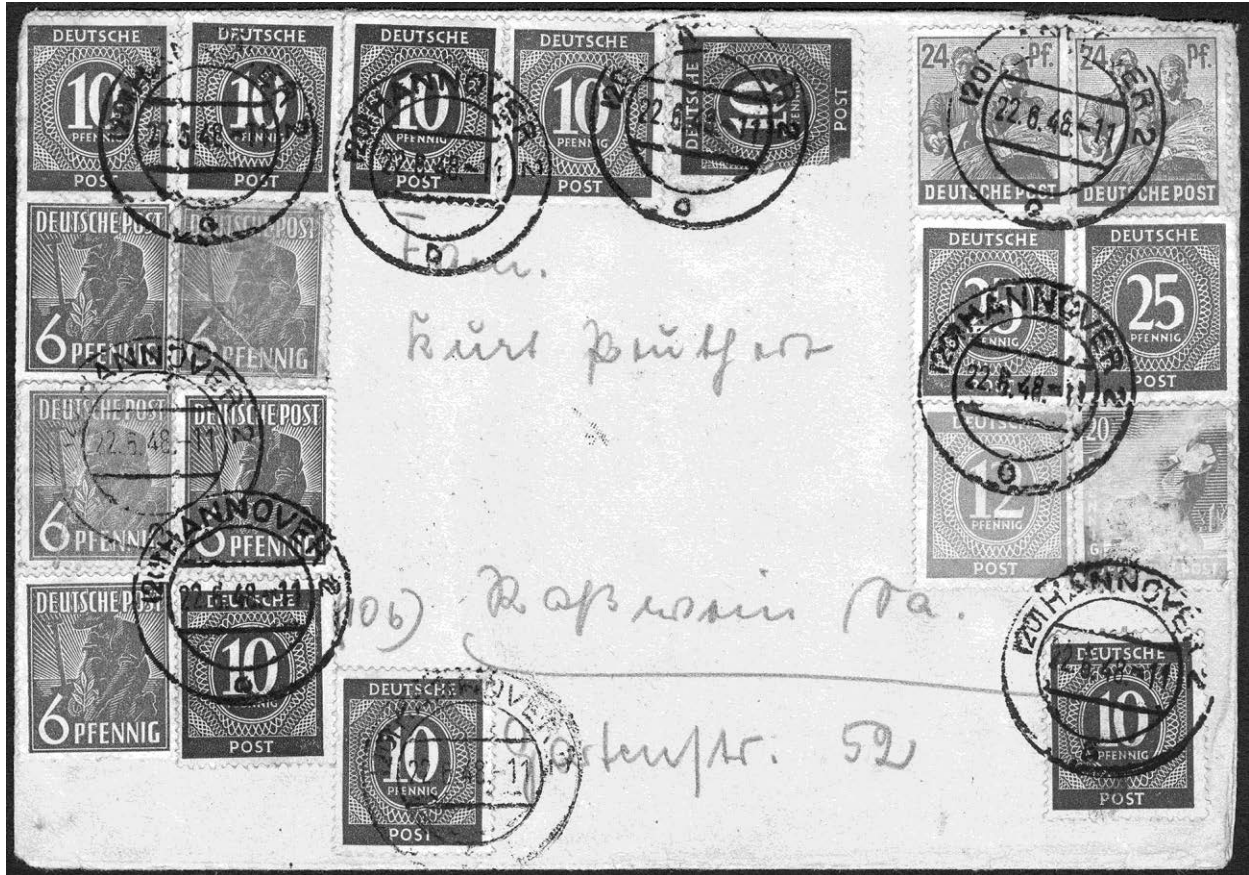
**THIS IS A WORKSHOP FOR NOVICES. WORKSHOPS FOR EXPERIENCED USERS OF EBAY MAY BE PLANNED IN THE FUTURE IF THE RESPONSE IS GOOD.**

Twenty students, that's less than two per club. Better hurry, don't be disappointed. I've already signed up.... that's leaves only 19 spaces to go!



## A Cover for the Recycle Bin?

Gerry Quidzinski



On the surface, this is a pretty scruffy cover bearing a seriously mixed franking of stamps some of which are damaged. Let us, however, take a closer look.

The cover was mailed at Hannover on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1948 at 1100 hours to the city of Rosswein. It is franked with six different stamps from two series with a total of RM 2,40. Most of the stamps are damaged and not attractive to the eye. The postage of RM 2,40 is ten times the domestic rate of DM 0,24.

The currency reform in Germany took place at 0 hrs on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1948. On this day every citizen could exchange 40 RM for 40 DM cash. All other cash in RM denomination was worthless except change up to 1 RM which was accepted at 10% of its value. Money held in bank accounts was also devalued but could only be withdrawn in small amounts at monthly intervals as decreed by the Government. Cash was tight in the new currency.

The use of the old RM stamps at a tenth of their face value was only possible until the first emptying of the mail box on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Now to the condition of the stamps: Small change and coins were taken out of circulation by hoarders, but stamps were generally accepted in their place. These stamps were not treated gently, but wound up being carried in pockets and purses.

Here, the mailer of the letter simply used whatever stamps he held on hand.

For me, this letter is part of history and deserves a place of honour in my collection.

*Gerry Quidzinski is Vice-President of the West Toronto Stamp Club and is an avid collector of German postal history during the inflation and post war periods.*

### ***Please Help Our Treasurer***

Joe Janthur, our treasurer, who is a banker in his life away from philately has asked PhilaJournal to advise our readers of a difficulty with cheques payable to the GTAPA. It seems that the T-D Bank will no longer accept cheques for deposit unless the payee is spelled out in full – THE GREATER TORONTO AREA PHILATELIC ALLIANCE.

Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.



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**American Philatelic Society**  
*Associate Membership number C 208899*

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*Chapter 109*

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 1868 – 1872  
 H.E. & H.W. Duckworth


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## How I Got My "Bluenose"

Gord Payne



Scott #158 "The Bluenose"  
Cancelled Port Colborne, AU 20 29

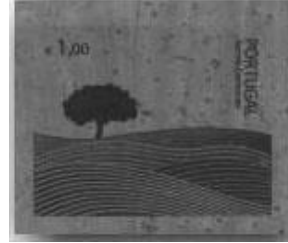
This stamp was the first significant trade of my "career" as a stamp collector. I believe I was about ten years old when I acquired this stamp in a trade with a schoolmate of mine named John Lawlor who was about the same age. John collected stamps as did his Father. I believe this trade occurred at John's house on Tennis Crescent. If memory serves correctly, I think I traded everything I could lay my hands on to get this stamp, and get it, I did!!

I suspect I got the better of the deal, because at school the next day, John wanted to reverse the trade (His Father was somewhat upset about it.) However, I stood my ground and the stamp has been in my possession ever since. I think John and I went our separate ways, shortly afterwards. Thus, the stamp has some unusual memories and remains in my collection.

## Unusual Postage Stamps

Jerry Piotrowski

Following Switzerland's use of a thin veneer of wood in the creation of a postage stamp, Portugal issued a stamp printed on a very thin slice of cork. The 1 euro stamp issued in late 2007 shows an image of a cork tree. Portugal is the source of over one third of the world's cork supply.




A September 2002 issue from Gibraltar not only showed 4 views of the famous Rock of Gibraltar but also allowed collectors to have some of the rock. Finely ground pieces of the rock were applied to certain portions of the design to create a textured effect.

Austria Post used a similar technique in 2006 when it issued a stamp showing a meteor streaking towards the earth. This time "cosmic dust" pulverized from a piece of a meteorite that had been found in Morocco was sprinkled onto the stamps. Each stamp is said to have 0.03 grams of the dust which had been mixed with a specially developed adhesive.

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


Season's Greetings  
to All

**THE NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
95 Santa Barbara Road, North York, Ont., M2N 2C4  
For more information, call Mike Turk at (905) 751-8380

**STAMP SHOW**  **NYPEX 2009**

**SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2009.**  
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the **CARNEGIE CENTENNIAL CENTRE**  
580 Finch Ave. W. (one & a half blocks west of Bathurst)  
DEALERS • DOOR PRIZES • SILENT AUCTION  
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HERBERT H. CARNEGIE CENTENNIAL ARENA  
**580 FINCH AVE. W.**  
ONE & A HALF BLOCKS WEST OF BATHURST  
Auction starts at 7:00 P.M.  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**  
(ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT MATERIAL)

## 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) 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](mailto:r.thorne@sympatico.ca)

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

Congratulations to club member Steve Johnson who received a Vermeil award at "Praga 2008" the FIP international held in Prague in July. Steve's Vermeil for his single frame exhibit "Yukon Airways and Exploration Company Limited", is the highest medal level earned at an international show by a Bramalea Stamp Club member. Not bad for someone who put his first ever exhibit together for the Bramalea Stamp Club show in February of 2005.

Tuesday night themes for the first three months of 2009 are as follows:

January 20	Women
February 17	Cars
March 17	Eleven

Plan now to attend our annual show and bourse.

#### BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

Invites you to its Annual Show and Bourse

Saturday February 7 2009

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre  
292 Conestoga Drive  
Brampton, Ontario

Between Kennedy Road and Highway 10  
North of Bovaird (Hwy 7)

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

*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 Club usually meets on the third Thursday of every month at the premises of Hampton Securities, 141 Adelaide Street West, Toronto. Guests are welcome, but should contact the president Joe Janthur (phone 416 364 4112), or secretary Herb Kucera (phone 416 494 1428) before attending meetings to avoid problems with the security systems at the premises.

Some meetings could be held on other dates. No meetings in July or August.



### 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.

#### Activities for the New Year

The first meeting of the new-year has traditionally been, for the North Toronto Stamp Club, a night to elect the new officers of the club and to announce new initiatives and special events for the coming twelve months. This year will be no exception and we anticipate a great turnout of members to support the new executive in their efforts to provide leadership along with enjoyable, entertaining and educational meetings, an active circuit books program and brisk business for our faithful dealers.



January 8 – *Annual Election of Officers* and another opportunity for “*Members Five Minutes*” to share what members treasure.

January 22 – Part I: *Local Post Issues from Around the World* with NTSC’s own **John Wilson**.

February 12 – *International Reply Coupons* with **Owen White**, president of the Toronto Stamp Collectors’ Club.

February 26 – Part II: *Local Post issues in Canada and the UK* with **Lawrence Worrall** and **Larry Friend** from the Oshawa Whitby Group.

March 12 – *to be announced*

March 26 – *NTSC Floor Auction* with **Geoff Ewing**, Auctioneer

Please Note: Programs may be switched around or re-scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check the bi-monthly *NTSC Newsletter* or announcements at meetings regarding possible changes.

*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 \$5.00 per year. NYPS is a member of Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Upcoming events of note

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/Whitby Stamp Group meets 3 times weekly. Twice weekly in Oshawa, on Tuesdays 1.15 pm to 3.15 at Northview Community Centre - 150 Beatrice St. E. - and Friday 11 am to 1 pm at Legends Community Centre 1661 Harmony Rd. N.

The Whitby group meets Mondays - 10 am to 12 noon at The Whitby Seniors Building - 801 Brock St. Whitby.

There are over 160 members - with average combined attendance of 75-80 at the 3 meetings each week. The Friday meeting is especially popular - with members coming from as far away as Brighton, Port Hope, Cobourg, Peterborough, Toronto, all Durham Region and as far away as Perfferlaw, Queensville and Barrie. At all venues there are a significant number of ladies attending.

The Groups function is to encourage seniors to start, restart and expand their collections – or – if desire the cash – assist them to dispose of their collection or inherited collections through club auctions or public auction houses.

There are 2 live voice auctions of 400+ lots and 2 silent auctions of 200+ lots - each year.

With our large membership you always find fresh material available at the meetings. Every meeting members offer surplus stamps to each other starting as low as 5 cents per stamp.

We are now encouraging and offering to assist in the establishment of a stamp group at Bowmanville Seniors.

We are always looking for new members with more stamps.

For more information please contact –

Jim Stevenson - 905-576-4449 - Whitby

Ron Christie – 905-432-7628 – Whitby

Don Beaumont – 905-426- 3612 – Ajax

Alan Hynes – 905-433-8084 - Oshawa

Larry Friend – 905-723-8798 - Oshawa



## 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.

Club’s NEW mailing address is: Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club “Troyak” John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1V8 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 December 14, 2008 at 4:30 p.m., January 25, 2009 and February 22, 2009, March 1, 2009, March 29, 2009; April 26, 2009; May 31, 2009 and June 28, 2009.

Refreshments are always available. Club issues monthly info bulletin on its website.

For more info call: **Ignacy Kania** 905-273-7313 or **Wieslaw Grzesicki** 416-258-1651 or visit our websites at:

[www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com) or [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com)

New members are always welcome.

MARCH 1, 2009, Mississauga, Ontario

VI Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2009, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Mississauga, Ontario (just south of 403). Organized by the Polish - Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak" of Toronto. Many tables of stamps, coins, medals, paper money, militaria & antique papers. Exhibit of Polish POW camps stamps of WWII. Stamp Exhibit - John Paul II On World Stamps. Exhibit of Upper Silesia's stamps, coins, paper money, sports pins, medals & collectibles... Exhibit of Orders and Decorations of Poland. Polonica & historical souvenirs. Polish stamps expert info table. Polish Mint info table. "Troyak Junior" table with boxes of free stamps for kids. Troyak special medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available. Sunday March 1, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Robert Owczarż*



**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 2009 Program includes:

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 last meeting of 2008 will be our Annual Christmas Dinner to be held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The TSCC is pleased to invite other members of the GTAPA to celebrate the occasion with us.

The dinner will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Library of the RCMI, 440 University Avenue. Please call **Joe Janthur** (416-364-4112) or **Owen White** (416-481-4731) or [owen.white@sympatico.ca](mailto:owen.white@sympatico.ca) to make reservations and get some friendly advice on parking locations if you don't come by TTC. The RCMI is a mere 20 yds. South of the exit from the St. Patrick's station on the S.W. corner of Dundas St. and University Ave.

The after dinner entertainment will be a multi-media presentation by member **Doug Irwin** on his recent visit to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Philatelic and non-philatelic guests are welcome to attend. You can be assured that Doug's presentation will be an unforgettable presentation to enjoy after a great meal provided by the RCMI catering staff.

At our first meeting in the New Year (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January), well known dealer, **Ted Wright**, will speak on the "Postal History of Crete". See and hear the "other" side of Ted as he reveals his

pure philatelic soul without even a hint of commercial activity!!

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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 Christmas party will be on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at The Imperial Palace Buffet on Eglinton Avenue East. We hope to see everyone there.

The dates of meetings will be:

2008: 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



## 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 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**

As reported in the last issue of *PhilaJournal*, the Club has moved to a new location. It was anticipated that in moving to a new locality we might have lost some of our regular members along the way. We were wrong!

The new location not only kept the membership intact, but we also have welcome new members. We think the following factors have contributed to the success:

- The consistent effort by the members to promote the hobby
- The continuous announcement in the community newspaper (Etobicoke Guardian)
- The Club's promotional brochure displayed on the Library's counter, and
- The promotional poster displayed in Library's lobby.

No doubt it takes a significant effort and persistence but we are indeed pleased to see some results. Our goal is to register 75 members by the year 2010 when we will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary.

The format of our meetings has changed. We now meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

On the 2nd Tuesday we have two sessions: In the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 activities include:

- Browsing in the Ted's tubs
  - Raffle
  - Swapping material
  - Work shops
  - Guest speakers
  - Presentations
  - Stamp Dealers
  - Exhibitions (3 types)
    - Single-page
    - Any multiple pages
    - One-frame (16 pages) and last, but not least
  - Friendship galore
- Refreshment is always available.




The attendance for each afternoon during the first two months has been 27 members and guests.

In the evening from 6:30 to 8:15 lots are hammered in two types of actions: Vocal and Silent. The average attendance in the evening session has been 40 members and guests.

On the 4th Tuesday we meet in the evening only for the auctions.

On 14 October 2008 we were pleased to have John Wilson as the Guest Speaker. His subject on 'Local Issues' was not only enlightening, but also entertaining. Thanks John. As you well know, West Toronto loves your presentations.■



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telephone (416) 445-7720  
fax (416) 444-1273

e-mail: [ntstampclub@yahoo.ca](mailto:ntstampclub@yahoo.ca)

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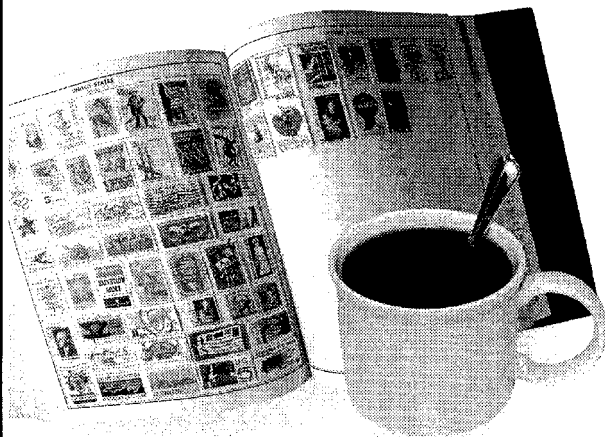


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Feb.	2, 16,	Aug.	9, 23
Mar.	8, 29,	Sept	13
Apr.	12, 19	Oct.	11, 25
May.	3, 17	Nov.	8, 22
Jun.	7, 21	Dec.	6, 20



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# How eBay Fuels The Collecting Passion

by Liz Hisey

*Liz Hisey is the treasurer of a newly formed society, WE (Women Exhibitors) and is the secretary of the AAPE (American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors). This article is reprinted from the July issue of WE's electronic newsletter. Permission to do so was granted by the editor Barbara Harrison and the contributor Liz Hisey. Changes to the text are bracketed and are the responsibility of Peter Butler who believes this article will be very helpful to GTAPA members contemplating the eBay world.*

With the cost of travel skyrocketing, traveling to stamp shows other than those that are local is becoming expensive, and most of us would rather spend the money on our collections rather than support the oil industry. So I would like to talk to you about eBay. For some of you this may be preaching to the choir, for others I hope this will encourage you to use eBay and other auctions to add to your collections.

Living in Florida with only one [national] show and very few local shows, accumulating material for my exhibits was difficult. In 2000 I became a member of eBay and have never regretted the decision. I have made over 2000 purchases, and I can count on one hand the bad transactions that have occurred.

One of the great things about eBay is that you can put in "searches" for specific stamps, covers, subjects, items — you name it, you can find it there. For me, the best part of the "search" (although I do like looking through the boxes of covers at shows) is that I can specify exactly what I want and the eBay computers will do the searching. In my case, I have been looking for single ingredients on stamps. Going up to a dealer and asking for say 'chickens' on stamps garnered a raised eyebrow and the question "which country?" As I had not spent hours pouring over the Scott catalogues, I was unable to answer. On the other hand, type 'chickens' into the "searches" section of eBay and lo and behold up comes 15-20 items, some days more, some days less.

First, to become a member ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)) is a very easy process. You need to come up with a username and a password, enter them, and you are ready to go. When you enter the site, there is a box, "My eBay," which you hit, and up comes a box for you to enter your username and password. Fill this in (you can also tell your computer to save this information so that you do not need to enter it each time), hit the "sign in" button, and there is your summary page. Next hit the "help" button in the upper right hand corner, and it will bring up the tutorials. It is much easier for you to go through these than for me to take you through the process with just words. These tutorials are straightforward and do not take a lot of time or require us to be rocket scientists, but they are very worth while. When you have finished the tutorials you are all set to go. The most important links and really the only ones you need to concern yourselves with are: Watching, Bidding, Won, Messages, Didn't Win, Searches and Feedback. I will take you through each.

**Watching:** This is what it sounds like, a list of all that you are keeping an eye on. This also gives you a chance to think if you really want this item, and if so then you bid. Delete items as they close.

**Bidding:** In the tutorial they will have explained how to bid. Make sure you know what you are bidding on; do some research. (See below – Searches.) Be wary of the amount you bid, up to \$25.00 you can put in odd amounts (I usually put in something like \$7.66 or \$12.66). After \$25.00 the bidding goes up in increments of \$1.00 so you need to put in amount plus .01. There is also another site called Esnipe.com, but that is another article!! Also keep an eye on shipping and handling. These can sometimes be way off. If you pay 99¢ for an item and the s/h is \$3.00 you might want to reconsider.

**Won:** Well, pretty obvious. The tutorial will have told you what to do. I would seriously suggest you become a member of Paypal. There is a direct link from eBay to Paypal, and all you have to do is enter your password. This is a very secure site, and there are more and more dealers who only want to deal with Paypal. It's a whole lot easier than having to write checks or get money orders. Unless it is something I really want, I usually do not bid on items that don't take Paypal. For me, I usually delete the won item after I have received it. This gives me a way to track my purchases. If something has not arrived within a couple of weeks I get in touch with the seller and ask for a reason: Did Paypal not go through? Have they lost the item? Etc.

**Messages:** This is where sellers communicate with you if you have asked them a question (which I highly recommend if you are wary of an item, or want to know dimensions, etc). Also, sometimes you will receive eBay messages in your Email account – before answering these, most of them are scams – check with your eBay Message box. **Never ever give out your username and password unless the message has come from eBay in your message box.** They will look like an eBay message with the logo included, but when you read the message it reads like it has been translated from another language, the English is usually quite stilted, and some of the words are wrong. Only answer messages in your eBay Message box.

**Didn't win:** Very obvious! It's useful to go back to item and see how the bidding went. Sometimes I kick myself when the item goes for 50¢ or a \$1.00 more than I bid, but as you will have learnt from the tutorial, you



don't really know what the other bidder had bid. If you really want an item, be brave!!

**Searches:** The fun part. The world is your oyster, and yes you can bid on oysters!! Towards the top of the result of the "Search" item is a small box that says "Advanced Search." Again, this will have been covered in the tutorial. In this section you can ask for all such items as you have listed that were sold in the last month (called Closed Auctions). This will give you an idea of what this particular item is likely to be sold at. Also, when you save a "Search," it asks whether you would like an Email as to when this item comes up for auction. It's okay to do this if you have only a few "Searches"; I currently have 62, which would flood my Email box, so I chose not to have Email alerts. I check several of my searches every day, and go through them all once a week – usually Sunday morning. Auctions typically run for 7 days, so if you check once a week you will pick up all current auctions. The tutorial will have explained this also.

When you select your search items, try several spellings of the country or item since some sellers can't spell and sometimes their fingers type in wrong words. My main "Searches" are Stamps (I tick the box that says "in description" – this usually brings up the covers), Postcards, and Paper (ephemera). Sometimes if there is a lot of activity in the eBay Stores category, I will put a separate search in for those items. Searches are divided into two sections, those items being sold by individuals and those by sellers who have on-line eBay stores.

**Feedback: A very important part of eBay.** When you select an item to watch, as you begin, make sure to check the profile of the seller. To do this you click on the seller name. This will show you how he/she performs. If there are any negatives, or the percentage of happy campers is below 90%, I would stay away from that seller. Also, it is important for you to leave feedback as to how you felt the transaction went. I personally enter my feedback after I have received the item. This lets the seller know that I have received the item and that I am happy with it, and it saves you time in Emailing the seller that you have received the item. The tutorial will also tell you about the various levels of comment.

In finishing, I hope I have assuaged some worries of those who haven't discovered the wonders of eBay. Every day is like going to the bourse, but from the comfort of your own home. I have also found that prices are lower, as the sellers do not have to buy the booth and truck their material all over the country. But that being said, there is still the thrill of finding that missing piece at the show. Also, unless you deal with the same seller over time, you do not set up the relationship as you do with dealers at shows, though in my case I buy from some of the same dealers over eBay and at shows. If you have any questions, here are the


names and Email addresses of two GTAPA members who would be pleased to assist you.

Larry Friend: [lfriend@sympatico.ca](mailto:lfriend@sympatico.ca)  
Garfield Portch [gportch@ca.inter.net](mailto:gportch@ca.inter.net)

*So to you all, Happy Ebaying, have fun and don't be scared. The eBay world is your oyster, and there is something for everyone out there: stamps, covers, postmarks, you name it and you can find it.*

**Barbara Harrison**  
**Editor, WE EXPRESSIONS**

**To learn more about WE, go to the AAPE website ([www.aape.org](http://www.aape.org)) and click on the WE bar at the top of the home page.**



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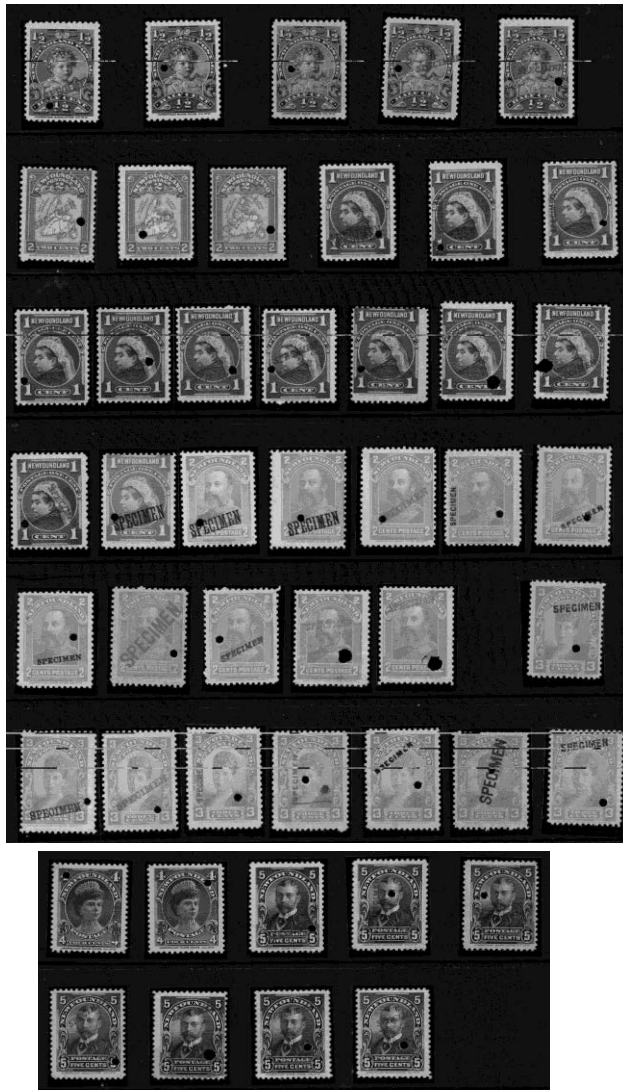
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This item is of interest to all Newfoundland collectors and a great rarity at that. In 1990 at the ABN sale, 91 complete sets of these specimens of the 1897 Royal Family issue were offered. These were soon sold and have vanished from the marketplace and are rarely seen.....something not too difficult to understand as there are fewer complete sets around that the number of copies of Canada's rare 12d black.....Scott #3. I have been extremely fortunate to acquire a complete set of this issue.....all 47 varieties and can offer this at a price of only \$2500.....just over \$50 each stamp. If you check the latest Unitrade BNA catalogue, you will see not a single Newfoundland Specimen selling for less \$50 and many more selling for much much higher.....and that is with many times more than the number of complete sets of this item available.

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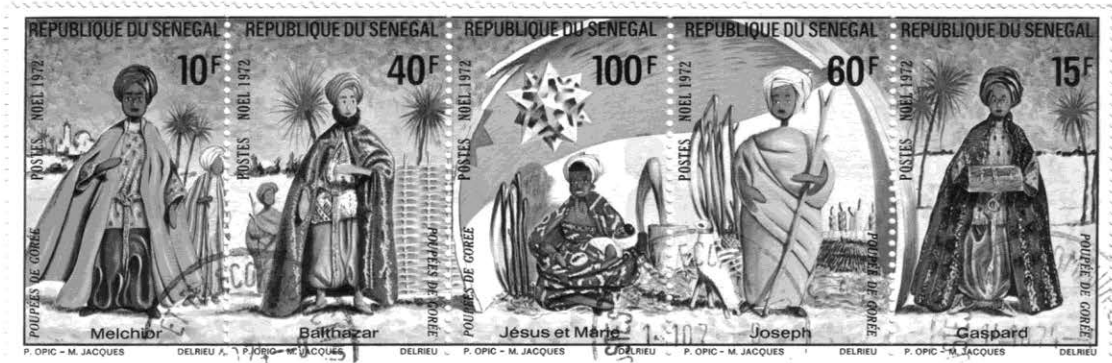
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# The Three Wise Kings

written by 20<sup>th</sup> century Nicaraguan poet, Rubén Darío and translated to English by Salamon de la Selva



My name is Kaspar. I the incense bear.  
The glamour of the Star has made me wise.  
I say that love is vaster than the skies.  
And God exists. And Life is pure and fair.

My Name is Malchior. And my myrrh scents all.  
There is God. He is the light of morn.  
The Fairest blossoms from the dust are born,  
And joy is shadowed by the threatful pall.



My name is Balthasar. I bring a wreath  
Of Orient gold, my gift. I come to say  
That God exists. I know all by the ray  
Of starry light upon the crown of Death.

Balthasar, Melchior, Kaspar, be ye still.  
Love triumphs and has bid you to his feast.  
Radiance has filled the void, the night has ceased:  
Wearing Life's crown, Christ comes to work His Will!



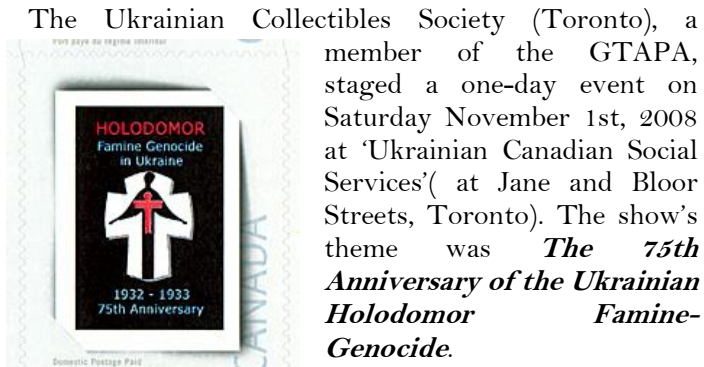
And when they were come into the house  
they saw the young child with Mary his mother,  
and fell down, and worshipped him: and when  
they had opened their treasures, they presented  
unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh.  
*Matthew 2: 10-11*



*Best wishes for a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year from PhilaJournal's Three Kings  
Garfield, Peter & Ernie*

# Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto) November 1st Exhibition Theme: The Holodomor

by Mark Stelmacovich and Jerry Kalyn



The Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto), a member of the GTAPA, staged a one-day event on Saturday November 1st, 2008 at 'Ukrainian Canadian Social Services' (at Jane and Bloor Streets, Toronto). The show's theme was *The 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor Famine-Genocide*.

The word 'holodomor' essentially translates to 'death by starvation'.

Planning for the event took place over a seven-month period, during which the composition of our show was eventually established. **Jerry Kalyn** completed a beautiful personal postage stamp for this event. However other concerns weren't as easy. How so?

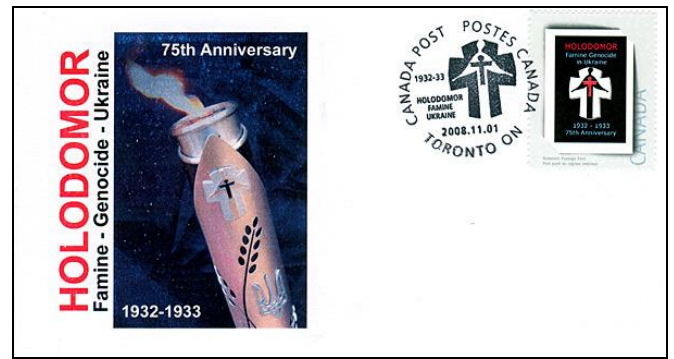
Through an Act of Parliament this past spring, Canada was the first western nation to officially recognize the Holodomor as a genocide. Thus an official cancel became possible, even though time was tight for a November event. During the planning for this cancel, various theme sketches were rendered. Our initial choice, submitted in mid-September, was based upon an historical depiction. However, as a few in our club suspected, it was deemed too morose. What to do at this late stage? With **Peter Butler's** guidance and some preliminary material, the rendition of a cancel designed by Canada Post was, well, simply beautiful! Speaking with colleagues in our club, and others that may well now join after having viewed this show, we couldn't be more grateful for their assistance, leadership, and professionalism.



Second, a federal election came about during our planning period. This stalled printing of covers for quite a while, as our initial printing house was busy completing flyers for political candidates. We'd have to wait. Once the election was over, in October, we then discovered that the new machinery the printer was now using could no longer complete #8 envelopes. Uh-oh, where could we turn on such short notice? **Troyak**, our GTAPA's Polish Canadian Coin and Stamp Club, had a connection which was able to come through right away! We were able to print our 250 colour-and-numbered covers and 250 black-and-white covers, which became available starting with this show.

In both cases above, truly heart-warming, and we do indeed feel blessed. As our club grows, we continue to experience 'maturing pains'. While we have made great strides, there most certainly is still quite a bit to learn. With experience, and with the friends we have in the

GTAPA and Canada Post, every further step we take will be that much better.



The back of the cover reads:

*The International Remembrance Flame traveling through 33 countries, including 15 Canadian cities, helped raise awareness of the forced famine in Ukraine in 1932-33. The Flame began its journey in Australia and arrived in Canada on April 18, 2008. The launch across Canada took place prior to the opening of the exhibit Holdomor: Genocide by Famine at Toronto's City Hall. The International Torch Relay reaches Ukraine in November 2008 to be part of the official state commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the great Ukrainian Famine and Genocide.*

*Ukraine remembers -- the World Acknowledges!*

We exhibited 22 frames of material, including stamps, coins, cards, and medals. **John Jaciw**, a very prominent Canadian designer of Ukrainian heritage, found out about our event and donated an entire frame of Holodomor-based 'essay' medal designs as exhibition material. Throughout the day, several hundred people paid a visit. This also included some of our member's parents, who for the first time finally had an opportunity to see what we spend so much of our time and money on. Thanks to this, for most of us also collect 'Canada'!

Not all of our 22 frames showed Holodomor material. There really isn't that much of a philatelic or numismatic nature out there right now, most if it appearing after Ukraine's recent independence from the former-USSR in 1991. Indeed, for some the Holodomor is still difficult to acknowledge. Historical documents are slowly trickling out of formerly sealed state archives to substantiate much of what millions of people experienced.

In part, we view Holodomor events such as ours as educational. It helps to outline a period of history in eastern Europe, specific to Ukraine but shared by neighbouring nations as well, when the former-USSR committed to a policy of enforced collective farming while exporting major quantities of grain. The most harmful effect of this effort was the pain of death by starvation, as 7 million or more Ukrainians (around 25% of its population at that time) eventually died due to this, during 1932 and 1933. We continue to be involved in similar educational efforts, for example in completing a table and exhibit during 'Holodomor Education Week', November 17-20 at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Toronto.

Many Canadians with some Ukrainian heritage keep their fingers crossed, as we witness the continued 'birthing pains' of a relatively young democracy, and who's identity is very much shaped by issues from its past.

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