

PhilaJournal

The Official Publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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together**

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Troyak 2009 Preview

by Tom Malicki

Troyak Club is not just for stamp collectors. As the name implies, “The Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club Troyak” we have a large number of coin collectors. In fact, we have members collecting post cards, phone cards, military items, medals and orders. Troyak Club is truly a multi hobby organization which includes Troyak Junior for the young stamp collectors.

Over the years the Club initiated various club memorabilia in line with member’s collecting interests. There have been medals and commemorative tokens struck at the show, a Canada Post picture postage stamp in 2006 and, in 2008 for a first time we had Canada Post cancel a cachet.

For the 2009 show the Club is offering another first. A commemorative coin, minted in Poland by the National Mint in Warsaw. It is being struck in bronze and silver. It is called “4Trojaki”.



To commemorate this event the club has issued a second Canada Post picture postage stamp. The design is made up of three parts. First is the name and date “Troyak Club 2009”. Second is the Club’s shield depicting a Polish eagle. Third section is the sketch of Toronto skyline with a Common Loon in the foreground. This sketch came from the initial designs for the commemorative coin. Only 86 sheets of 40 stamps each were ordered and the design will never be repeated.

The Club also asked Canada Post to issue a cancellation for the day of the show. The cancel design has the Polish Eagle and Canada’s Maple Leaf. On top is the name Troyak in italics, all three parts are divided by a stylized letter “T”. The design is finished at the bottom with the show details: 6th Annual Show, TROYAK CLUB, 2009.03.01 and all inside of the CANADA POST . POSTES CANADA. MISSISSAUGA ON ring. To tie it all together a day-of-show cachet is also being issued. This is a first time ever that we have a philatelic stamp, a cancel and a cover with a common theme which is the commemorative coin. All three philatelic items will offered at the show. You can get the show details in the Club News section in this issue of PhilaJournal.

Unusual Postage Stamps

By Jerry Piotrowski

In 2007 the Netherlands Post Office came up with a novel way a person could send someone flowers. Well not exactly the flowers but rather seeds for flowers. A specially prepared souvenir sheet with 10 different designs was issued. Each stamp had had on it a flower seed embedded under a thin film of plastic, which could be peeled back to remove the seed. Planting instructions were printed on the selvedge of the souvenir sheet. It was to have been a joint issue with the Austrian Post Office but Austria cancelled their part of the project when planting tests failed to achieve good results.



Austria had been more successful in 2006 with a joint issue with Hong Kong of a souvenir sheet containing two stamps. The theme was fireworks and the stamps showed displays exploding over Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong and beside a giant Ferris Wheel in Vienna. The glitter effect of the exploding fireworks was achieved though the application of a "crystal fabric" which had been impregnated with tiny particles of the world famous Svarovski crystals.



It was not the first time Svarovski crystals had been used on Austrian stamps. A 2004 souvenir sheet showed an ice cube on one stamp and a swan on the other. Each image was enhanced with tiny Svarovski crystals.



Thank you to **Henry Vandentop** and **Herb Kucera** for the leads to these unusual stamps.

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 using unusual stamps in the subject line or mail the material to

74 Glenmore Crescent,
Brampton Ontario L6S 1H8

Jerry Piotrowski

Troyak (cont from cover)

As we are going to press, the cachet covers were not yet available to be included here.



This picture postage and show cancel will appeal to both traditional and thematic collectors.



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PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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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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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

I am pleased to present an issue of *PhilaJournal* with eight contributors. Thank you all for a wonderful assortment of aspects of philately!

As we enter 2009, I continue to be amused by the negative comments from individuals who tell us that philately is in trouble. From my lofty perspective, I am seeing some of the most positive indicators that I have seen in a long time. Some of my observations include:

- The Oshawa / Whitby club is new approaching a membership of 200.
- West Toronto is getting about 25 – 30 members out to the afternoon meetings.
- 8 contributors to *PhilaJournal* • a well attended show at Bramalea
- continuing strong results at auctions

We are pleased to welcome **Taylor Stamps** of Brampton and **Eastern Auctions** of Bathurst, New Brunswick as advertisers in *PhilaJournal*. Your support of *PhilaJournal* is greatly appreciated.

Finally, the editor's usual plea: Please send more articles. There is no such thing as "too big a backlog". Remember, I am willing to help write your article. You need only to present the information and you get the story credit.

gjp

DEADLINE

The Summer Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of May. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the 10th of May, 2009.

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Clippings and Commentary

by Peter Butler

I'm writing this column on January 12, the day the postal rates went up to 54¢. Reading the paper at breakfast, the article was on the front page. I decided that I would drop by the post office and pick up a new rate sheet. While the paper announced the new rates for mail less than 30 grams, within Canada, to the US and to all other countries, I needed to know how the rates had changed for heavier mail.

Two days previously, there were two other items on the front page of the paper, about mail. One was about a stamp and the other about a cover. One told the story of a business man who found a stamp in the top drawer of his office desk that his father had told him to hold onto for a while because he thought it might become valuable. It turns out that the stamp was an air post, semi-official stamp (CLP6 in *Unitrade*) that had been printed to use on covers for the commemoration of a first flight from London, Ontario to London, England. The plane, loaded with mail bags with the semi-official stamp on the envelopes, flew out over the ocean but was never seen or heard from again.

Apparently, there were only a few mint stamps remaining at the post office and the one mentioned in the article was, of course, one of them. The owner contacted **John Talman**, there was an auction and the delighted owner received \$10,000.00 for the stamp. It's the kind of story we all, as stamp collectors dream about happening to us. Have you noticed that in similar stories, it is seldom a stamp collector that finds the valuable stamps? Hmmm... perhaps we're not looking in the right places!

The other front page item was a heart warming story of a letter that was sent to a soldier in Europe during World War II but was never received. That, by itself is not remarkable, I thought. The rest of the story is. Recently, a collector was surfing covers for sale on eBay and noticed this particular cover for sale. He recognized the army regiment stated in the address and the rank and name of the officer seemed familiar so he bought it. He then tracked down the addressee using regimental records and found out that the person to whom it was addressed was still living. Using his army connections and a strong commitment that returning the letter to an elderly veteran would be a wonderful thing to do, he tracked him down, in a nursing home, and delivered the letter, across the country. You can imagine the tears, the gratitude, the joy and the appreciation from the gentleman receiving the letter, at long last, 67 years late to be exact. By the way,

the gentleman did not wish to reveal the contents of the letter. Imagine the "water under the bridge" since then!

I thought these two stories deserved to be on the front page not buried somewhere in the Life Section. They are good news stories and that's what we need on the front pages of our newspapers these days, stories that show the human condition, the caring and the very special emotional responses to the unexpected.

I recall that on Christmas Day the paper had a beautiful reproduction of a painting by Lawren Harris, of Group of Seven fame, of a beautiful lone evergreen tree with a forest of trees behind, all laden with snow. It was a serene and majestic scene befitting the message underneath about the Christmas Season and the hope for peace. It pictured a cold winter's day but it warmed one's heart with the power that art can convey, and the peace within the natural world.

The next day the front page story told of a group of people living in a small village in the mountainous area of northern British Columbia who had cooperatively, save the lives of several horses that were stranded in the deep snow of a small canyon, destined to die if not rescued in some way. They were too emaciated to be lifted out by helicopter. This group of individuals took seven days to reach, feed and dig out a path for the horses so they could plod back to civilization. The article showed a map of the territory and the route taken to reach the horses. There were photos of the horses and some of the rescuers involved in this wonderful story. It must have been the best Christmas present ever to see the horses recover and arrive safely back home. I thought, what a wonderful community and what a wonderful Christmas they must have had together.

Of course for me, the good news stories two days in a row, conjured up great anticipation of another positive, life enhancing story in the next day's headlines. Would this be a new trend in reporting? My hopes were shattered as I opened the newspaper the next morning to find a headline announcing the Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip.

Several pages into the first section, however, I did find a good news story and amazingly, it was directly related to our hobby. It was the story of the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Seal campaign. In 1908 *The Globe*, before it merged with *The Mail and Empire*, helped to launch an historic initiative to stamp out tuberculosis, the public scourge of the times. The photo showed Canadian jazz icon, **Oscar Peterson** pointing to a sheet of Christmas Seals and encouraging people to buy them, "to fight the lung cripples." The year was in the early '60s.

The article was timely. I had just finished writing a column for *Canadian Stamp News* on the need for collectors to spend time reading the pages at the front

of their catalogues. I had mentioned that the new *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* was the best buy one could make to increase their knowledge of Canadian stamps specifically and the art of philately, generally. I invited readers to make a resolution about reading their catalogues for more than tracking stamps and prices. I also mentioned the several new listings in this year's catalogue... one of them being the five-page, full colour listing of the National Christmas Seals.

But wait a minute. The article stated it was the 100th anniversary of the start of Christmas Seals, yet I recalled that the date given in the catalogue for the first issue of the seals was 1927. That didn't connect. I checked out the history of the program and found that the idea for Christmas Seals started in Denmark in 1904. A postman sorting mail glanced out the window of the post office to see two hungry waifs freezing in the snow. "What if every Christmas parcel or letter carried an extra stamp and the money went to desperate children?" he wondered. The Danish King liked his idea and Christmas Seals were born. The idea was imported to Canada a few years later but initially seals were only sold in Toronto, Hamilton and Winnipeg. Over the next few years more centres joined in the campaign and in 1927 the campaign went national. Thus the starting date in the catalogue is 1927, when sheets were distributed and sold across the country. I wonder if any collectors have Canadian examples of seals from the early years, sold in the three cities mentioned. I wonder if, as a result of the new listing in *Unitrade*, there will be increased interest in collecting Christmas Seals. Apparently it is becoming a popular topic among collectors.

Reflecting on all of this, I must say that I am always happy to see positive headlines in the newspaper. If I were a publisher of one, I would insist that the front page headlines were always about good news, leaving the other news for the inner pages. I know that's a naive sentiment but I believe we'd have a better world if we focused on good news stories all the time and left the other mind-numbing news to the politicians. I also believe that newspapers enjoy telling good news stories about our hobby, in all its manifestations. Witness the three stories retold above.

That means we need to make sure we bring to the attention of the media, all the good news stories we can find as collectors, club members, exhibitors and stamp purchasers. Don't hesitate to call reporters and tell them what great things are happening at your club, at stamp shows and at all the special events we hold in the course of a year. Remember, we did great coverage in *Canadian Stamp News* of the evening we held with **Cheryl Ganz** from the Smithsonian to see her presentation on the *Hindenburg*. Perhaps we should have tried harder with the other news outlets.

It's a great objective though, to have someone in your club looking out for good news in the hobby and trying to get positive coverage. Don't we just love the hobby's good news stories when we see it in the press?

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Chapter 109

The First Scout Stamps

by Tony Manson

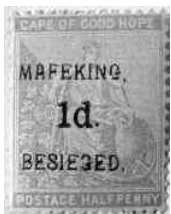
Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the world scouting movement, became famous as a British Army Colonel in charge of the Mafeking garrison in the Cape of Good Hope, Africa during the Boer War. The Boers laid siege to the town on October 13, 1899 and continued the siege for 216 days until Mafeking was finally relieved on May 17, 1900.

The war had been going badly for the British, and they were eager for some victory. Some modern historians compared this Boer War with the Vietnam war. The relief of Mafeking became the spark that ignited massive celebrations in England, creating a new word "Mafficking" to represent uproarious and wild celebrations. On September 8, 1887 Great Britain issued a set of four stamps for Victorian Britain. One of them (Scott No. 1191) shows a boy selling newspapers with the headline "Relief of Mafeking".



As the siege went on, supplies were continually running out. By the end of the siege most of the horses had been butchered for meat to feed the population of around 1600 whites and 7000 natives.

The Mafeking Post Office initially had a supply of different Cape of Good Hope and Bechuanaland stamps which were overprinted "Mafeking Besieged" (Scott No.'s 162-177). Two examples are shown below.



However, these soon ran out and the Post Office decided to print their own stamps. With limited facilities, it was decided to print them in the same method as blueprints are created, by exposing photographic paper to sunlight through a glass negative plate. This resulted in a wide variation of blue stamps, from light blue-grey to dark blue. Over the years these stamps have become known as the "Mafeking Blues".

One stamp (Scott 178) showed a Mafeking Cadet on a bicycle (the Cyclist stamp), while the other two had a portrait of Baden-Powell (Small BP - Scott 179, and Large BP - Scott 180). The Cyclist & Small BP were

issued April 7, 1900. The Large BP was issued on April 10 because it was felt it showed more detail than the Small BP. They were issued in sheets of 12 – four columns and three rows.

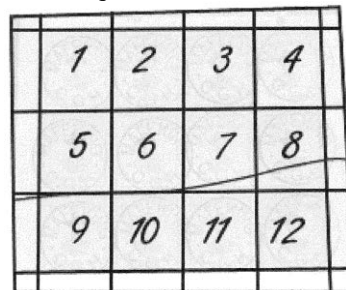


The printing process used gave rise to a number of errors and varieties. One is the "Reversed Head" variety on the Small BP stamp. The glass plate was reversed in the printing frame and one sheet of 12 stamps was printed before the mistake was corrected.



So far, 7 used and 3 mint have been recorded, with the used copies having cancellation dates of April 27 (1), April 30 (1), May 8 (3) and May 11 (2). The Reversed Head example above shows the Mafeking cancellation of May 11, 1900, 6 days before the Relief.

Another variety is the "Cracked Plate" one. The printer accidentally dropped the glass plate for the Large BP causing a crack to extend across it. Any sheets printed after the crack occurred show a thin white line on the stamps affected.



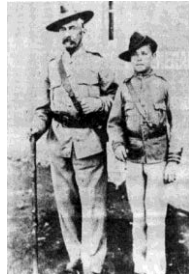
The above stamp shows the line from position 8 of the sheet.

Other rare varieties were found with no perforations on the margins of the Cyclist and the Large BP. As well, a slight Double Print variety was found for the Small BP, most likely caused by a small shift in the glass plate while being exposed to sunlight (maybe as a result of the daily Boer bombardment of the town?).

A few other points merit mentioning. The boy pictured on the Cyclist stamp was 12 year old Cadet Sergeant Major Warner Goodyear. The area of Mafeking under siege was large, having a circumference of 5 miles. Thus communications was vital for defending the town and also for the men stationed at the outposts for communicating with their families back in the centre of the town. Thus a Cadet Corps was formed, using bicycles, to carry mail wherever it was required and to run various errands. One such letter, addressed to Colonel Baden-Powell is shown below.





Warner Goodyear stood out as a leader amongst the boys and can be seen on the far right of the front row in this old picture of the Cadet Corps, and then with his father, Captain Charles Goodyear.




Some might claim that these stamps are not the first Boy Scout stamps, since Baden-Powell didn't form Boy Scouts until 7 years later in 1907. However, they are the first ones showing Baden-Powell, and many believe that the success of the Cadet Corps planted the seed in Baden-Powell's mind for the Boy Scout program.

There was also some initial concern that Queen Victoria "might not be pleased" with some British stamps being issued without her image on them! However, she recognized the special siege circumstances (and the fact that Baden-Powell had become a national hero) and was the first to send him a congratulations telegraph very shortly after the siege. In fact, the stamps were meant to be considered as "local post" to be used within Mafeking, but as the siege went on, there were some couriers who were able to make their way through the Boer lines, carrying mail to other destinations.

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Bramalea Stamp Club

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

For more information contact **Bob Thorne** at 905-792-3526 or email r.thorne@sympatico.ca

Check out our web site at www.bramaleastampclub.com

At the recent North Toronto Stamp Club Show held in conjunction with the CSDA Spring Bourse club member Steve Johnson earned a Vermeil and Best of Show for his exhibit titled "Patricia Airways and Exploration Limited". Congratulations Steve!

Upcoming Tuesday night themes are:

June 16	Authors
July 21	Coils
August 18	King George V

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 Club welcomes guests to all its meetings, which are held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month except July, August, and December. Members begin arriving between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. to visit dealer tables, peruse club circuit books, examine table auction lots, or simply chat and trade with fellow members. A short business meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. (mainly announcements) followed by a pre-arranged presentation, workshop, or seminar. There is usually time after the program to return to the dealer tables and circuit books.

Meetings are held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, just a short walk north of the St. Clair subway station. For a copy of the club's most recent newsletter, email the editor at: jruimyca@yahoo.ca.

Highlights of the coming season, starting in September, include:

- a presentation on the world's eclipses through philately;
- a session on working toward preparing a thematic exhibit;
- a Q&A session with Charles Verge, Canada's most knowledgeable philatelist;
- the club's fall auction; and
- a visit to the V.G.Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

The club will also present a three-night seminar entitled *You can't take it with you!* Spouses, partners, and significant others are also invited to hear speakers including dealers, an auction house representative, an insurance broker, and a banker. We'll also hear from collectors and heirs who had a positive experience disposing of their collections. For more information about the club, its meetings and programs, please contact: President Leon

Matthys at 416-4233760 or Peter Butler at 416-690-4666.



North York Philatelic Society

Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June (July and August 3rd 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.



Oshawa/Whitby Stamp Groups

The Oshawa/Whitby Stamp Group meets 3 times weekly. Twice weekly in Oshawa, on Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 8.30 pm at Conant Seniors Branch, 115 Grassmere Avenue, and Friday 11 am to 1 pm at Legends Community Centre, 1661 Harmony Rd. N. The Whitby group meets Mondays from 10 am to 12 noon at The Whitby Seniors Building, 801 Brock St. Whitby.

There are more than 160 members with average combined attendance of 75-80 at the three meetings each week. The Friday meeting is especially popular with members coming from 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 Group's function is to encourage seniors to start, restart and expand their collections or, if they desire the cash, assist them to dispose of their excess material 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 which meets Thursday mornings from 10 am to noon at The Older Adult Centre in Bowmanville

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

Gordon Wick – 905-404-0796 - Oshawa

Alan Hynes – 905-433-8084 - Oshawa

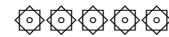
Larry Friend – 905-723-8798 – Oshawa

email lfriend@sympatico.ca

OUR NEXT LIVE VOICE AUCTION

SAT. MAY 2nd, 2009

Larry Friend



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

“Troyak” Club's next meetings are planned for June 28, 2009 at 4:30 p.m., September 27, 2009, and October 25, 2009.

No meetings are scheduled for the summer break in July and August.

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 or info@troyakclub.com

New members are always welcome.

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:

Mar 15 – Kitchener Scout House – Clothesline

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 January meeting was addressed by **Ted Wright** of George Wegg Ltd., on the Postal History of Crete. The presentation engendered much enthusiastic participation by the audience, alas somewhat smaller than usual because of the very snowy and stormy conditions that prevailed all day!!

As this is written we are looking forward to **David Hanes** of Barrie to make a presentation at our February meeting of very modern Military Postal History; viz. dealing with mail to and from the various Canadian contingents involved around the world as peace-keepers, UN observers and policing units, etc.

For our forthcoming meetings; on March 10th we will be addressed by **Ralph Trimble** of the Vincent Graves Green Expertising Service on the topic of Re-Entries on Canadian Stamps, and, on 14th April, by **Shirley Griff-Coates** on Mourning Covers. Shirley's collection was recently featured in lengthy articles in *Canadian Stamp News* and the *Toronto Star*. As of this time of writing, we look forward to all three presentations.

Visitors and potential members are welcome to attend any of our meetings

For more information contact

Owen White at 416-481-4731

or by email at owen.white@sympatico.ca

Owen White



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 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 officially begin at 7:00 p.m.

The dates of the meetings will be:

2009: June 2nd and 16th..

Starting in September the start of our 33rd year September 2nd and 16th, October 6th and 20th, November 3rd and 17th, December 1st with our Christmas party taking place in early December.

All new members and guests are welcome to any of our meetings.

The Scarborough Stamp Club would like to wish the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada good luck at their convention in June which will be held in St. Catharines, Ontario.

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:

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

During the last three months the Club continued to be very active.

Work Shops

On the afternoon of 9 December '08 we were honoured to have **Peter Butler** to entertain us on "The use of chemicals for cleaning ball pen cancels, removing scotch tape, and removing self adhesive stamps from paper." Peter has recently been writing about it in the *Canadian Stamp News*. Preceding Peter **Garfield Portch** gave a presentation on "Philatelic tools and accessories". Needless to say both were very interesting and we thank both for their time.

Awards Presentation

On the evening of 13 January '09 three annual awards were presented to three winners of the Club's philatelic exhibitions:

- The F. Alusio Award (Single-page) and
- The Everett Drake Trophy (One-frame)
Presented to **Denzil Fernandes**.
- The Ted Allen Cup (Open Exhibition)
Presented to **Gerry Quidzinski**.

The surprise of the evening was another award: An Honorary Membership presented to **Garfield Portch**.



Garfield Portch accepting the certificate from Frank Alusio

The certificate reads as follows:

"Be it known by all persons present that The West Toronto Stamp Club is proud to present this Certificate of Honorary Membership to Garfield Portch in appreciation for his outstanding contribution and service to the West Toronto Stamp Club and to Philately in General."

(Signed by the President and Secretary)

Garfield is the 29th member, out of 995 in the 74 years of the Club's history, to receive this honour.

The Club is very proud to have these members and thank them along with all those who participated.
CONGRATULATIONS ALL!

Frank Alusio



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SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009

9:30am - 3:30pm

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Club Sales Circuit (000's of pages!)**

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Contact Person

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SATURDAY JUNE 20th, 2009
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

FALL POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19th, 2009
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

WINTER POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28th, 2008
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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Oshawa/Whitby 4th Live Stamp Auction

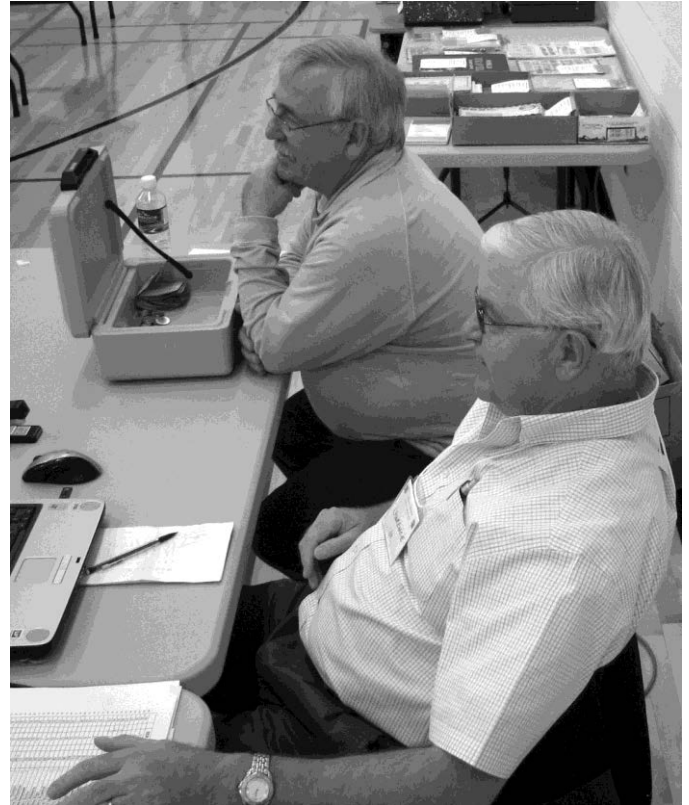
by Larry Friend

Our 4th Stamp Auction, held on November 1st, 2008, was another huge success. We were able to offer 400 lots on behalf of 40 consignors. More than 100 bidders purchased 312 lots with the total sale amounting to \$6940!

Our lot runners **Sheila Maarse, Paul Bosy, Marion Rigo, Elva Derbyshire, Clorice Nicholson** and **Suzanne Twist** with auction organizer **Jim Stevenson** and auctioneer **Larry Friend** keeping the auction running smoothly.



*Our greeters met guests with hand outs and information. Seated left to right are **Al Hynes, Terry Williams** and **Gerry Roerdink** greet bidder (standing) **Al Gallant***



*Treasurer **Ron Christie** (top) and Registrar **Lawrence Worrall***



Inspection of lots prior to bidding

We reduced the number of lots from previous auctions to 400 to allow more time for bidding and to finish sooner. The actual auction was completed in just over 3 hours – with the successful consignors receiving their money and unsold lots within minutes of the sales completion. The take down of tables and chairs took a few more minutes – home before 5 pm.

The running of the auction was very smooth - from registration of lots by registrar **Lawrence Worrall** to paying out from Treasurer **Ron Christie**. Many members helped set up and take down chairs and tables.

The Auction was held in the gym of the new Oshawa Senior's Centre, Conant Branch – a beautiful facility with fresh paint, great parking, easy entry and a great lunch served to 60 participants by the center's Recreational & Special Events Coordinator **Karen Pelzowski**. Karen also did a great job on signage, communications and organizing the facilities.

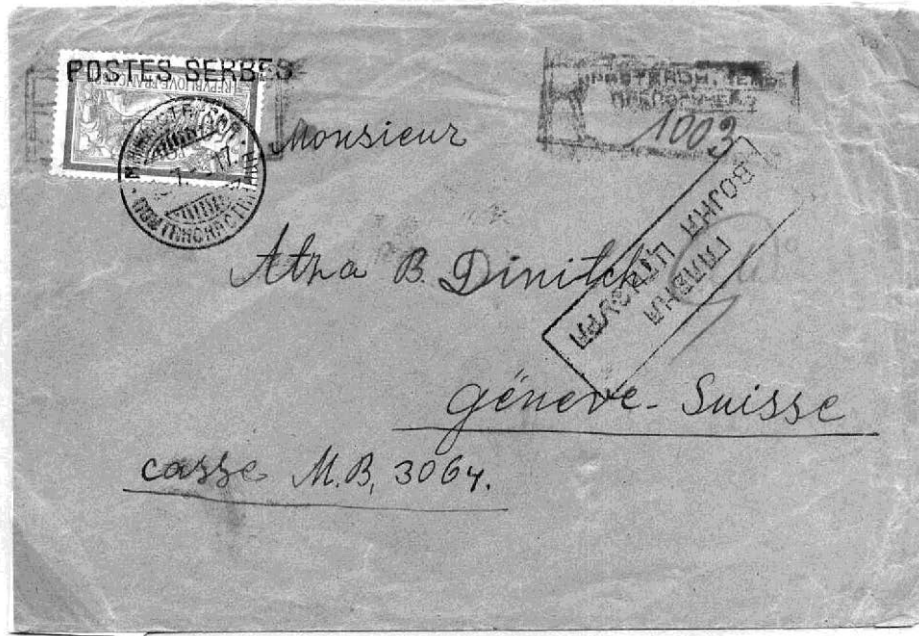
Watch for the date of our next Live Auction in the spring. It will be another in the continuing tradition of great auctions. With a over 150 registered members how can we expect less?

We are very thankful to all members of the Oshawa/Whitby Club and other clubs as well as the people who saw our advertising who attended this great auction.

We are looking forward to presenting our 5th Live Auction in the spring.

Serbian Exiles in Corfu

Robert Pinet



The assassin that shot dead Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, on 28 June 1914 was Gavrilo Princip, one of a group of six Serbian assassins belonging to an underground movement that aimed to break away Austria-Hungary's south Slav provinces into a Greater Serbia. These assassinations ignited the tinderbox that was the Balkans, quickly and inexorably escalating into the First World War in August, 1914.

The Allied Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia and Serbia (and, in 1917, the United States) were ranged against the Central Powers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany, and Prussia.

After a massive offensive by the Central Powers, the Serbian Army faced encirclement and destruction in 1915. An Allied relief column from Salonika was repulsed by the Bulgarians. Facing annihilation, the Serbian Army executed a terrible winter retreat, beginning in mid-December, over the mountains of Albania. The army was accompanied by the King, government officials, and women and children, including an estimated 30,000 boys aged 12-18. In January 1916, Allied naval power helped evacuate the Serbs from Avalona, on the Adriatic coast of Albania, to Corfu, but, by then, there were only 9,000 boys left. On the voyage to Corfu, a further 2,000 died. Once on the island itself, hundreds of boys died every day from lack of food. The survivors were eventually sent to England and France.

Until the summer of 1916, the Austro-Hungarian forces

which had occupied Serbia since 1915 refused to allow the Serbs exiled in Corfu to communicate through the post with the relatives that remained back home. The Austrians relented in the summer of 1916 and a postal service was established for the Serb exiles through the French expeditionary force which was protecting them. An agreement was reached between the Serbian Minister of Construction, who controlled the Serbian post office, and French officials. All official Serbian mail did not require stamps. Private mail, however, had to use French stamps, which the Serbian government purchased from the French post office.

A discrepancy exists as to which French stamps were used by the Serbs on Corfu. Rasic (1979), claims that fourteen stamps were used, ranging from the 1 centime to the 1 franc, while Coppolani (2000) recognizes only the 5, 10, 25 and 35 c Sower, the 15 c "lined" Sower, and the 40 and 50 c Merson.

The registered cover above from Corfu to Geneva, Switzerland, is franked by a 50 c Merson on grey paper, tied by a Type I Postes Serbes hand stamp, as well as a 28 millimeter-wide cds of the Ministarska Postanka Stanika (Ministerial Postal Station) dated 7 - 17. The cover also bears a very rare Type III black ink Serb censor cachet "Censure Militaire Principale" or "Chief Military Censor."

French stamps were used on Corfu until October 5, 1918, when the Serbian post office received the King Peter and Regent Alexander issue. The Serb post office at Corfu remained open until 1919.

The First World War was devastating for Europe, but catastrophic for Serbia. The Kingdom lost over 1 million inhabitants (both soldiers and civilians), which

represented over 25 percent of its population. As well, the war left 114,000 disabled soldiers and 500,000 orphaned children, and the Great Retreat had a lasting affect on the national psyche.

Corfu is famous for being the site of the *Corfu Declaration* of 20 July 1917, which comprised an agreement between exile politicians from Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia providing for the establishment of a new nation, Yugoslavia, to be carved out of the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On December 1, 1918, the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was declared by Crown Prince Alexander (Regent to Serbian King Peter I).

Yugoslavia would disintegrate into civil war in the 1990s.

References:

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. Retrieved November 13, 2008, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_in_Sarajevo

Coppolani, Toussaint. (2000). *Les timbres au type Merson : Postes Serbes à Corfou*. Retrieved November 12, 2009, from: http://www.coppoweb.com/merson/etranger/fr.me_ps.php

The Corfu Declaration. Retrieved November 13, 2008, from: <http://www.firstworldwar.com/atoz/corfudeclaration.htm>

Rasic, Mirko R. (1979). *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Serbia*. Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication. New York: Collectors' Club.

World War I: Great Serbian Retreat. Retrieved November 8, 2008, from <http://histclo.com/essay/war/ww1/cou/ser/w1cs-ret16.html>



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Musical Toronto In Philately: Kamouraska

Alena Pascual

Further to my article on musical Toronto in philately (*PhilaJournal*, v. 4, n. 3, Spring 2006) I have recently come across another stamp which fits this category.

On 8 September 2003, International Literacy Day, Canada Post issued a set of four stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Library of Canada (now part of Library and Archives Canada). The stamps were designed by Toronto-based artist Katalin Kovats.



One of the stamps featured Quebec poet, novelist, and playwright Anne Hébert (1916-2000), whose novel, *Kamouraska*, was published in 1970. The photo of Hébert shown on the stamp was taken by Harry Palmer; the manuscript fragment is believed to be from *Kamouraska*.

Toronto-born composer Charles M. Wilson (date of birth 8 May 1931) has composed an opera based on the classic novel; he has also written the libretto. The opera, composed in 1974-75, received a first reading in Toronto a few years later. In 2005, Opera in Concert (OIC), a Toronto company, offered to present the opera if it could fit the OIC's format. Wilson has since rewritten the work, actually in two versions. The vocal parts are written on two staves, one in English, the other in French. A workshop reading of the opera took place on 17 May 2008 at the Edward Jackman Centre in Toronto. OIC will stage the world première performance (in English) on 28 March 2009 at Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.

Acknowledgement:

Thanks to **Nicole Lemire** of Canada Post for providing some of the information about the Anne Hébert stamp.

References:

Mercer, Ruby. "Wilson, Charles (Mills)". *Encyclopedia of music in Canada*. 2nd edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, c1992. (also available online)

www.harrypalmergallery.ab.ca

www.operaintoronto.com

www.operainconcert.com

Locals That Are, Locals That Were, and Locals That Never Were

Larry Friend



“Locals That Are”- Lundy Island - A great example of a current Local stamp issuing Island.

Lundy Island – It is believed that the postal authorities of Great Britain first established a post office in Lundy in 1887. It was at this time a cable was laid to Lundy for a signaling station – hence making it reasonable to assume a post office would be necessary.

The post office was set up in a hut adjoining the ruins of Marisco Castle – the first postmaster was a retired Royal Navel officer who held the post for 38 years. There were two more Postmasters before the expense of operating the boat ferry service – at this time the Postmaster refused to pay more for the ferry service – hence all came to end with the sub post office.

From January 1st, 1928, Mr. Harman, owner of the island transported the mail in his vessel using private bags. Mr. Harman received no payment for his mail service – until November 1st, 1929 - when he introduced the Lundy “Puffin” Stamps. At that time 2 stamps were issued – the Half Puffin (for post cards and letters up to 2 oz.) and the One Puffin (for every 2 oz. above that weight.)

In 1941 – Mr. Harman started the Lundy Philatelic Bureau – he did this because of the increased demands for Lundy Stamps by philatelists in many parts of the world. To this day the island ships stamps to collectors around the world.

The rest – is postal history – and an Island whose stamps are coveted and collected around the world.

In fact it is my believe if you collect Great Britain or British Commonwealth – you should include Lundy Island in you collection – particularly with the islands Philatelic history and the islands rich history.

Lundy Island has been everything from a haven for pirates and smugglers to a tranquil place to visit. Tourist now can stay in the islands Pub, Marisco Castle, a converted Pig Sty and other small cottages – in fact booking for the islands capacity is nearly a year in advance. The island boast great bird watch – peaceful holidays and Skin Diving as well as great flora beauty and scenery.

Lundy Island stamps are reasonably priced and readily available from the Lundy Philatelic Bureau and on Ebay. Early Lundy stamps can be fairly expensive with early covers prior to 1928 being very expensive.



“Locals that were” – Herm Island issued stamps from 1949 to 1969 and probably, for many people, best known for its colorful postal history.

Herm issued there own stamps for 20 years during which time Channel Island postal services came under the auspices of the British Post Office. Failure by this authority to recognize the need far a regular postal link brought about inter-island service.

Herm’s own issues were used in conjunction with Guernsey regional stamps of the British Post Office to help with some of the operational costs.

Over the years Herm’s stamps became very popular with collectors and tourist (which numbered 100,000 or so per year).

Then, on October 1st, the British Post Office became a public corporation. Guernsey wished to remain apart from the corporation and consequently formed its own Post Office Board, issuing its own stamps. The new Board seeing the volume of mail from Herm – nearly 200,000 items per year, decided to ban local issues making it an offence to use them under penalty of a heavy fine. An official Sub-Post Office was opened on Herm where only

Guernsey stamps were bought and used as postage, however, the mail was still cancelled “Herm Island” with a metal hand stamp.

Herm Island has the smallest population of the Channel Islands that is open to the public. Cars and bicycles are banned on the island. However, quad bikes and tractors are allowed for use by the locals. The island's sandy white beaches make Herm a walker's paradise.

Tourism is Herms main source of income – money is also made from farming of vegetables, raising livestock and occasionally issuing its own stamps for collectors & tourists – the island status as a tax haven is particularly appealing.

Herm's history dates back to prehistoric times, where the remains of Neolithic chamber tombs have been found.

The Stamps of Herm Island (locals) are very collectable and very reasonably price – readily accessible from dealers and Ebay. While some of the early postal history and covers will be a little more expensive.

Like Lundy stamps – if you collect British or Channel Island stamps I don't see how you can keep these beauties out of your collection.



"Locals that never were" – Les Ecrehou – have a stamp issued, likely by a person who designs or collector, for the purposes of selling to other collectors of Cinderella's and bogus stamps or perhaps for his own collection.

Les Ecrehou is an archipelago of savage islets and rocks depending on the Bailiwick of Jersey. Small fishermen houses have been built on the main islet but are uninhabited most of the time. Beaten by winds and waves Les Ecrehou archipelago is an inhospitable place during the winter. In the spring it is a quiet place and a Mecca for birds and water mammals – it is also a great site for fishing and diving.

The only stamp I have seen of Les Ecrehou was on Ebay (I now have a copy). It was inexpensive and adds to my stamp from every island and rock collection.

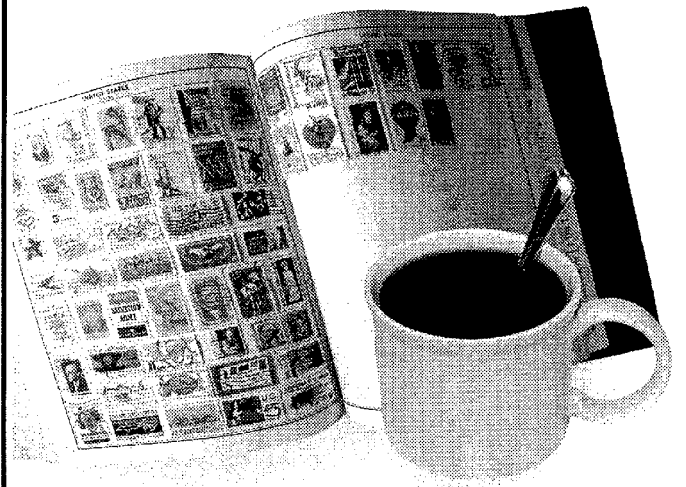
I can understand, there may not be any interest in collecting this type of stamp – in some cases these type of stamps are not very well designed or printed. Never the less – a very colorful addition to ones collection –

they also lend themselves nicely to custom designed album pages.

Perhaps, Google some of these islands and check out their complete, fascinating and colorful history and you may just add some of these locals to enhance your own traditional collections. Many of the stamps from these islands that have "Locals" lend themselves to several different topical collection as well – Birds – Lighthouses – Castles – Scouting – sports – etc. to name a few.

Happy collecting!

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Did you know.....the oldest philatelic society still in existence is the Royal Philatelic Society of London, founded in 1869.

Guinness Book of Stamps

News From The Greene Foundation

Garfield Portch

Many members of clubs in the GTAPA know of the Greene Foundation only as “that obscure downtown place where the GTAPA directors meet”. It has been my privilege to be closely associated with the Foundation following my retirement from business in 2007. For the past fifteen months, I have had the opportunity to work with the Foundation administration, the Expertization Committee and the Library Committee. I admire the work that has been done in the past, enjoy the work that is currently in progress, and eagerly look forward to the future of the Foundation. By means of this column, I hope to share some of my experiences with the Foundation, to erase some of the mystery surrounding the existence of the Foundation, and show how our members and the philatelic community at large can benefit from a relationship with the Foundation.

The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation was established in 1975 having received funding from the late Vincent Graves Greene. **Vincent Greene** was considered by many to be the Dean of Canadian philatelists. He was a signatory of the Role of Distinguished Philatelists, a recipient of the Lichtenstein Award, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He served on many national and international philatelic juries and made significant contributions to many areas of philately. The Foundation bearing his name is incorporated and registered as a charitable organization for tax purposes.

The primary purpose of the Foundation is to encourage and promote research in the fields of philately and postal history.

In serving the purpose, the Foundation has several functions that will be the focus of this new column in PhilaJournal. The functions include:

- The establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive library for research and study purposes.
- The provision of an expertization service for the validation of Canadian and BNA philatelic and postal history items.
- To conduct or support lecture programmes or courses of study designed to improve and expand the knowledge

of Canadian philatelists and postal historians.

- To encourage, participate and organize philatelic and postal history exhibitions, competitions and displays.
- To underwrite and publish philatelic and postal history research work in various formats.
- Additionally, the Foundation will make available meeting space for suitable organizations. The Library is open to groups meeting at the offices of the Foundation and at other times by special arrangement.

Vincent Graves Greene

February 11, 1893 – July 22, 1988



Vincent Greene was born in Toronto and educated at Upper Canada College. During World War 1, he served with distinction as an officer in the 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion. He served as a recruiting officer during the Second World War. In his private life, he retired after 40 years in the insurance business

His philatelic activities included judging at FIPEX (1956) and London (1960). He was President of CAPEX in 1951, 1978 and 1987. He was a President of both BNAPS and the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club. He was also an exhibiting member of the Collectors' Club of New York.

Vincent Greene was a major collaborator with **Nicholas Argenti** in his work on the stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He also worked with **Dr. Jephcott** on the follow-up postal history book.

Among his philatelic honours was his admission to the APS Hall of Fame in 1989.

References: *Photo and notes taken from BNA Topics (Jan 1966, page 7), Sketches of BNAPSers by Dr. Robert Carr*

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To get your club started in this exciting incentive offer, have your appointee contact **Bull Burden** either by email (bill.burden@easternauctions.com) or by telephone at 1-800-667-8267.

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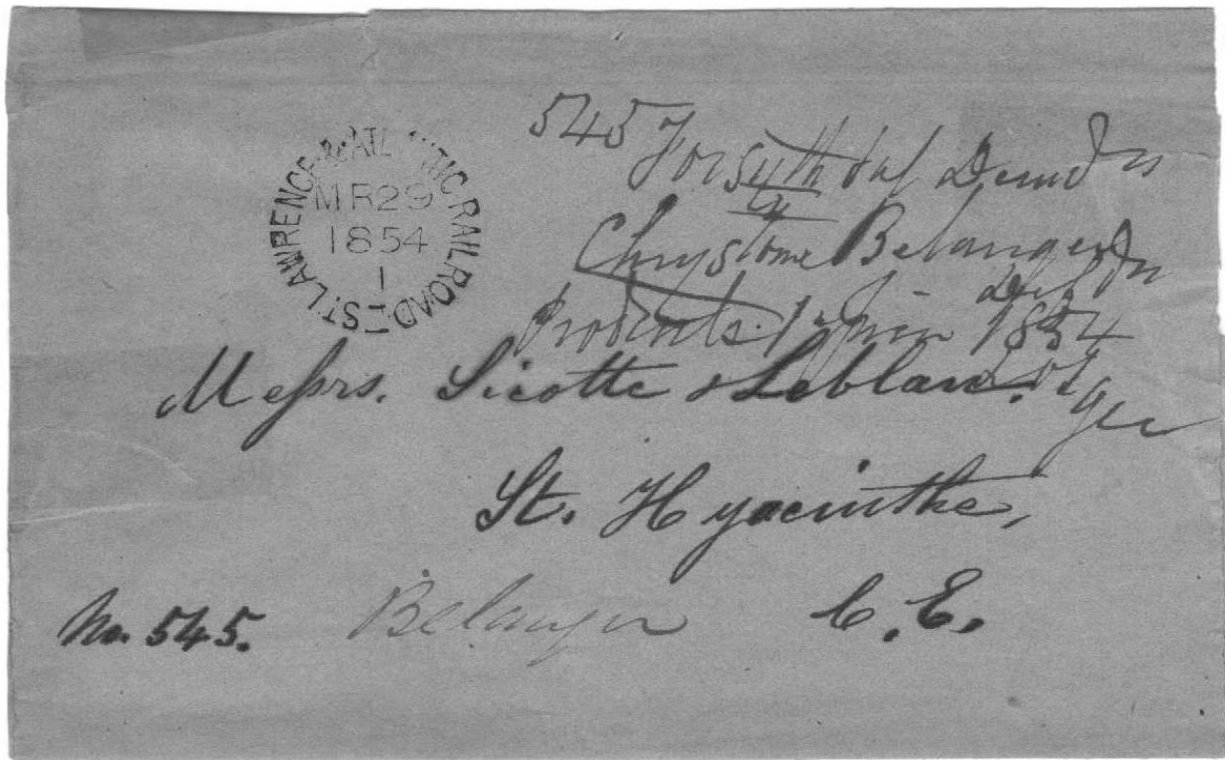
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This cover is especially interesting as it is not a regular stampless folded letter but instead was used as a wrapper to mail most probably a newspaper. Unusual during the pence period, however, the most interesting aspect of this is the circular date stamp. St. Lawrence-&-Atlantic Railroad dated MR 29 1854 has a rarity factor of 470 in the Ludlow book of RPO's and is the 2nd earliest known Canadian railway cancellation. What is most surprising is that it beats the earliest recorded date (April 25, 1854) by almost a whole month.

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ROYAL* 2009* ROYALE

For the first time ever, the Niagara Region of Canada will host the national stamp collecting exhibition and convention: **Royal *2009* Royale**.

The St. Catharines Stamp Club is pleased to host **Royal *2009* Royale**. This event will be held June 12-13-14, 2009, at the **Parkway Convention Centre**, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 5L3 (905-688-2324 or 877-688-2324). Directions: Ontario Street is exit #47 off the Queen Elizabeth Way – a highway stretching from Toronto to Fort Erie (Buffalo is right across the Niagara River). The venue is about 2 km south on Ontario St.

St. Catharines is close to the major population centres of Ontario and a large portion of the north-eastern USA. There are three major airports all within an hour of the venue: Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo.

- Highlights of **Royal *2009* Royale** will include:
- Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (an opportunity for a special show cover)
 - The 81st annual convention of stamp collectors and philatelists
 - The 86th annual national stamp exhibition (the first was in 1923)
 - Fifty-one dealer tables featuring dealers from the USA, Great Britain and across Canada.
 - Fifteen educational seminars
 - Three days of Stamp Camp for beginners of all ages (Stamp Camp USA is assisting)
 - An auction Sunday afternoon of covers and bulk lots plus.
 - 200 frames of selected exhibits
 - Exhibit court of honour
 - Friday evening President's reception (by pre-registration only)
 - Saturday evening Awards Banquet (by pre-registration only)
 - Canada Post sales counter
 - Anticipated Stamp Launch (details not announced yet)

The web-site at 'www.royal2009.ca' features information about the show including a list of dealers, seminars planned, exhibitor information and entry form, registration form for special events, hotel information, links to the key cities and towns of the area including many tourist attractions.

So welcome to all stamp collector visitors to one of Canada's premier tourist areas. While Niagara Falls is arguably the best known tourist attraction in our area, in reality there are attractions for every taste and age group within a very few minutes of our show site. The non-stamp collector who accompanies you will have plenty of interesting diversions with which to occupy their time. It is

also our hope that any first time visitors take the opportunity to enjoy all that Niagara has to offer, either before, during or after the convention. Please visit the various local area links provided for tours and tourist attractions.

The promotional card features The Seaway, a vital link for industry. In 2009 The Seaway celebrates their 50th anniversary. Recently, in Port Dalhousie (now a part of St. Catharines) the first lock of the original canal was re-discovered and unearthing started. In all there have been four canals. Visitors can visit parts of some of the original locks and other later ones.

St. Catharines Stamp Club is proud to be a long term charter member of the RPSC. Cathex 60, Jan. 24th, 2009 is an indication of how long we have actively been involved in a local show. Membership is stable at between 60 and 65. We are very pleased to have the opportunity to host Canadian and International stamp collectors as they enjoy *Royal 2009 Royale* and visit an area of Ontario renowned for its scenery, agriculture, history and tourism.

The St. Catharines Stamp Club pre-dates WWII but there are no records left for that period. In general, as a club we feature friendliness, a good sales circuit, monthly auctions, and a very sociable atmosphere at our meetings.

Canadian Stamp News: Did you know that St. Catharines is the home for Trajan Publishing, the parent company of *Canadian Stamp News*. Trajan also has a hand in helping to produce *The Canadian Philatelist*? In addition they are assisting the Royal 2009 committee with our advertising.

Accommodations: The Quality Inn to which the convention centre is attached is holding a limited number of rooms for Royal 2009 attendees. Within the Niagara Region there are over 100 hotels or motels, 100 Bed and Breakfasts plus about 10 campsites offering a variety of options and prices to suit every pocketbook.

The Committee:

Chair:	Stuart Keeley stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca
Secretary:	Dave Hillier
Treasurer:	Jim Glen
Dealer Liaison:	Roy Houtby roystamp@cogeco.ca
Exhibits:	Rod Paige rpaige@sympatico.ca
Seminars:	Vic Potter wendyandvic@sympatico.ca
Judges:	Rod Paige
Liaison RPSC:	Stuart Keeley
Webmaster:	Stuart Keeley
Security:	Dave Hillier
Advertising & Show Program:	Stuart Keeley

A WELL KEPT
secret

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