

PhilaJournal

The Official Publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

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Wednesday at the
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Visitors are welcome.

*We work best when we work
together*

WEB SITE

www.gtapa.org

ROYAL*2009*ROYALE

On behalf of the membership of the GTAPA clubs, it is my pleasure to extend thanks and congratulations to the **St. Catharines Stamp Club** under the leadership of **Stuart Keeley** for a great RPSC Convention and Stamp Show. I dare not specify individual thanks because I know I would miss someone so, to the entire Club and Committee, a warm "Thank You!" for a job well done.

The Greater Toronto Area was well represented in many areas, as usual, and was prominent in the awards and recognition.



Margaret Schulzke, FRPSC and Peter Butler, FRPSC

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada announced the names of four members who have been admitted as Fellows of the RPSC. Two of those admissions are none other than **Margaret Schulzke** of the Greene Foundation and our own **Peter Butler**. Also named were **Michael Nowlan** and **Bill Pawluk**. Congratulations to all.

The GTAPA is well represented on the Board of Directors of the RPSC in that **Peter Butler** has retained his position as Secretary and Director of the National Office. Additionally, **Frank Alusio, FRPSC** was also elected as First Vice President. Other officers of the RPSC are **George Pepall, FRPSC** (President), **Dr. J.J. Danielski** (2nd Vice –President) and **David Oberholtzer** (Treasurer). Thanks go to these gentlemen who now share the large job of directing the activities and future of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

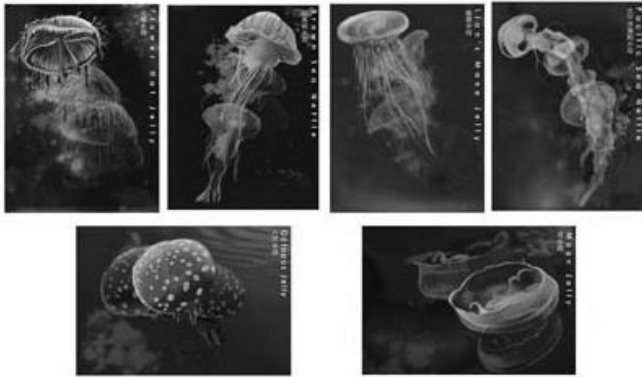
We also did well with GTAPA members' exhibits. Results are tabled elsewhere in PhilaJournal. The full Palmars can be seen on the RPSC website.

Unusual Postage Stamps

by Jerry Piotrowski

Two countries recently issued “Glow in the dark stamps”.

On June 12 2008, Hong Kong issued a set of six stamps showing jellyfish. After being exposed to light the stamps will actually glow in the dark for a period of time.



Iceland’s glow in the dark contribution on October 9 2008 was dedicated to the memory of John Lennon and his song “Imagine”, The stamp shows the Imagine Peace Tower which in fact is a circular array of 6 searchlights pointed up to the skies. This light tower is illuminated from October 9, Lennon’s birthday, till December 8, the day he was shot. It is the beam of light that glows in the dark. An added unusual feature on this stamp is the image of John Lennon that is visible when ultraviolet light is shone on the stamp.



While it is not the first stamp ever issued that has a shape punched out of the body of it, the stamp showing the Hungarian flag with a hole in it contained in an October 20 2006 Hungarian souvenir sheet issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 revolution has an interesting story behind it. After the communist takeover of Hungary in 1948 the regime replaced the age-old Hungarian symbols on the national flag with a

communist red star and hammer. An early act of defiance by the Freedom Fighters in the ill-fated revolution of 1956 was to cut out the communist symbols, thus leaving a “Hole in the flag”



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 send the information to me at 74 Glenmore Crescent, Brampton Ontario L6S 1H8



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PhilaJournal

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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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Advertising

Anyone wishing to place an ad in *PhilaJournal* to promote their product or service, may contact:

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

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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

As the GTAPA moves into its eighth year of operation, it does so with the first change of President and Secretary. We welcome **Larry Friend** and **Tom Malicki** as new members of the executive committee and wish them well in their new positions.

On behalf of the entire membership of the GTAPA member clubs, I want to extend thanks to **Peter Butler** and **Ernie Nyitrai** who have given yeoman service to the Alliance for seven years.

We are fortunate indeed to know that these two gents will continue to serve the Alliance in different capacities. Peter, as Past President, will serve as an advisor to the President and will continue to serve the RPSC as Secretary and as the Director responsible for the National Office. Ernie will continue to serve as the advertising manager for *PhilaJournal* and will also serve the RPSC in a similar role for *The Canadian Philatelist*.

I ask all of our members, when you see Peter or Ernie at a philatelic function, to just stop for a moment and say "Thank you for a job well done".

Again, we remind readers to submit articles and stories for inclusion in *PhilaJournal*. Share your interests with the philatelic community.

gjp

DEADLINE

The Spring Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of February. Submissions must be in the editor's possession by the 6th of **November, 2010**.

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Message from the President

by Larry Friend

The start of a new era!

As incoming president I would like to thank **Peter Butler** for this opportunity-

OH!- that's the same thing I said to him, as president of the Scarboro Stamp Club – That's when I conscripted him to be President of the Scarboro stamp club – that only lasted 7 years of his life! **You know - he still hasn't thanked me for that opportunity!**

On a serious note, Peter has been very instrumental in the success of GTAPA, with his energy, enthusiasm and leadership; it is hard to imagine the growth without Peter and the excellent group that supported him and his vision.

The new executive members **Tom Malicki** and I will have an easy transition to office with the help of Past President Peter, past Secretary **Ernie Nyitrai** and current board members Vice President **Robert Oswarz**, Treasurer **Joe Janthur** and also with the Support of our *PhilaJournal* editor **Garfield Portch**.

Ernie has done a magnificent job of recording and preparing minutes – he is leaving us with a terrific written record of the GTAPA from grass roots start to where we are today – quite an effort - quite a legacy – great stuff Ernie!

In the coming year I know I will not be alone in hoping all stamp clubs will see growth not only in membership but leadership.

The foundation of a successful stamp group must come from as many members as possible participating in the activities and sharing responsibility of the running of the club. Too many collectors – as in life – will let or want everyone else to do the work or spread the word.

This is certainly not the case of the GTAPA Directors. Not only do they represent their personal clubs, but they provide excellent support in the running and functions of GTAPA, with their dedication, enthusiasm and leadership.

There is no doubt in my mind - it takes just as much energy to lead as to sit on your hands. **Leaders are the winners!** They get much more satisfaction out of their choices than the person who says **"I wish I had or wish I could"**. If you lead or get involved, many of your wishes or thoughts will become realities.

There are several reasons clubs stagnate or go down hill other than the lack of strong leadership and enthusiasm, but one that bothers me the most is the collector who is a dormant collector. That is the collector who only waits for

new issues for his collection because he has everything else. That's the collector who will not broaden his collecting interests or sell off his extras. If he was to sell off his extras, three things would happen:

- he would enjoy the thrill of **"receiving money"**–
- he would put **"new stamps"** in play for other collectors
- he would have cash to fill in or **"expand his collections"**

One of the worst things that can happen, when you go to a stamp club is to arrive filled with anticipation, and enthusiasm and then go home with no new stamps or information. The worst answer to hear when asked **"what did you bring NEW?"** is **"NOTHING"**. **There must be something of interest for each member who comes to your club!**

If collectors would broaden their horizons and start a new collection, whether thematic/topical or traditional, three things would happen:

- they would open their minds, enjoy and learn – **"enthusiasm"**
- they would go home with news stamps **"Treasures"** each meeting
- they would now have a **"place to buy"** somebody else's extras

When a new member comes to one of the Durham clubs, almost the first question they are asked – **"what extras do you have or bring to sell off?"**.

Personally, we are very lucky, in the Oshawa/Whitby Stamp Groups, to have several responsible leadership types and several advanced collectors who actively support each and every member who has a question or concern. They also take an active roll in the responsibilities of the group's functions and special events. With these qualities in a Stamp Group, comfort and fellowship are natural by products.

It is my hope to get around to as many of your club functions as I possibly can, to enjoy the fellowship and enthusiasm your club will provide.

In closing, it is worth saying again - it will be tough following in Peter and Ernie's footsteps as they have done a great job, leading with their leadership skills, coupled with their enthusiasm, caring and hard work. GTAPA will always be indebted to you both for your dedication.

Thanks Peter and Ernie!

Larry

Did you know..... that the world's first stamps to be authorized for precancellation were Canada's Small Queens in 1889.

Guinness Book of Stamps Facts & Feats

The Balkan Exchange of Minorities

by Robert Pinet

“Trouble in the Balkans” could have been a headline you read in your favourite newspaper not only in the 1990s (Yugoslav Civil War), but also in 1919 (Greco-Turkish War).

The Ottoman Empire’s slow decline as the “sick man of Europe,” the rise of nationalism among the minorities that had been subjugated to the Turk, and their incomplete emergence as nation-states meant that region had been in a state of almost continuous political and military turmoil for generations. Besides minor skirmishes and border disputes, the major wars that broke out among Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Turkey and neighbouring world powers, included the Russo-Turkish War (1877-78), First Balkan War (1912-13), Second Balkan War (1913), First World War (1914-1918), and Greco-Turkish War (1919).

At the end of the First World War, further to the Treaty of Neuilly between the Allied Powers and Bulgaria, a Convention was signed in Neuilly on 27 November 1919 in order to settle the problem of mutual and voluntary emigration of ethnical minorities of religion or language in Greece and Bulgaria. On November 27, 1919, Greece and Bulgaria approved this Convention Respecting the Reciprocal Emigration of their Racial Minorities. According to it, about 30,000 Greeks left Bulgaria while 53,000 Bulgarians emigrated to their motherland. This forced repatriation of thousands who had lived on their land for centuries or millennia was massively traumatic for those involved.

Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention established the role of the Liquidation Service under the Mixed Commission of Greco-Bulgarian Emigration, who were given the responsibility to supervise the exchange of populations. The Liquidation Service was responsible for valuing “the movable and immovable property which is to be liquidated under the present Convention” in gold currency, and then “transmitting to the owner concerned a stating the sum due to him in respect of the property of which he has been disposed.” This sum was to be paid by the government of the country to which the emigrant belonged. Thus, a Greek Orthodox Christian relocated from Bulgaria would have the value of the property he or she was forced to leave behind paid for by the Bulgarian government, and vice-versa.

The illustration is a cover from the Refugee Settlement Commission in Athens, Greece, to the Mixed Commission of Greco-Bulgarian Emigration, Liquidation Service, Sofia. It features a Thessaloniki registered label

issued by a Macedonian cds (27 Apr 1928), and 8 drachma of stamps franking the reverse, as well as a two ring purple handstamp of the Refugee Settlement Commission. Unfortunately, I cannot read Greek, so have not been able to decipher other markings. (I would be grateful for any assistance in doing so.)



This government-organized forced emigration, while seemingly tragic for those involved, was seen as the only means to a lasting peace between the nations involved. This Convention also served as a template for a similar one, in 1923, between Greece and Turkey, which involved over 2 million refugees.

Sources:

Athens Info Guide, History of Athens, Greco-Turkish War, Asia Minor Campaign. At <http://www.athensinfoguide.com/history/t8-7asiacampaign.html>

Second Balkan War. Wikipedia.com. At http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Balkan_War

Balkan Wars. Wikipedia.com. At http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Wars

Pentzopoulos, D. (1962). *The Balkan Exchange of Minorities and its Impact on Greece*. Publications of the Social Sciences Centre Athens. (Paris: Mouton & Co.)

UNOG Library, Registry, records and Archives, at: <http://biblio-archiv.unog.ch/Detail.aspx?ID=2494>

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GTAPA MEMBER CLUBS' NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Bramalea Stamp Club

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

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

Check out our web site at www.bramaleastampclub.com

Special thanks are extended to Committee Chair **Stuart Keeley** and his committee of **Dave Hillier, Jim Glen, Roy Houtby, Rod Paige and Vic Potter** for the time and effort that they and numerous other individuals put in to make the St Catharines Stamp Club hosting of Royal 2009 a success.

Among the exhibitors at that show was our own **Steve Johnson** who received Gold for his "*Yukon Airways & Exploration Company*" exhibit. Steve's exhibit also earned him two other awards, Canadian Airmail Society's *Best Canadian Airmail* and BNAPS' *Best One Frame BNA*.

Upcoming Tuesday night themes for the balance of the year are:

September 15, Errors
October 20, Mountains
November 17, Orange
December 15, WWF (world Wildlife Federation)

Don't forget to mark Sunday October 18 in your calendars. That is the day the Bramalea Stamp Club hosts the GRVPA 15th Annual Grand Fair. Details elsewhere in this issue of *PhilaJournal* and on our club web site.

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.

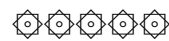
The objective of the club is to provide a meeting place to enjoy the hobby. Stamp collecting is often a solitary hobby so having a place to meet and enjoy the various activities, in a social atmosphere, is very worthwhile.

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 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month except July August and December. Members begin arriving between 6:30 and 7:00pm to visit dealer tables, peruse club circuit books, examine table auction lots, or simply chat and trade with fellow members and visitors. A short business meeting follows at 7:30pm (mainly announcements) followed by a pre-arranged presentation, workshop, or seminar. There is usually time after the programme to return to the dealer tables and club sales circuit.

Visit <http://NorthTorontoStampClub.TK> for up to date details as programmes may be subject to change.

Meetings are held at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1858 Yonge Street, just a short walk north of the St. Clair TTC subway station. For an emailed copy of the NTSC's most recent Newsletter, contact the editor at joel@joelruimy.com

Fall Programme Highlights

September 10 – **Charles Verge on the Hot Seat.** Regular Meetings resume with a free-wheeling Q & A session with Canada's most knowledgeable philatelist. Think of it as a 101 things about stamp collecting you always wanted to know about but were afraid to ask.

September 19 **Autumn Stamp Bourse** 10am to 4pm at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. **Over 20 dealers** will be there, plus the club's sales circuit. Limited Free parking, Snack Bar – Wheelchair Access is also available. Information: 416-446-7720 or NTStampClub@yahoo.ca

September 24 - **Total Eclipses of the Sun in Philately: Dr David Foot**, U of T's recently retired economist and demographer, and author of the best seller *Boom Bust and Echo*, will talk about the amazing phenomenon of Total Solar Eclipses on Stamps and Covers. An evening not to be missed!

October 8 – **Working Towards a Thematic Exhibit** – A special talk given by acclaimed exhibitor **Frank Alusio** illustrated using his **Castles of Italy** exhibit.

October 22, and November 12 and November 26 – **You Can't Take it With You.** This fall the club will host a short series of meetings to look at the options available to collectors and their survivors, for properly disposing of collections. Several speakers including a dealer or two, an auction house representative, an insurance specialist on collectibles, a banker (and more) Family members of collectors are encouraged to come and learn. We'll hear from collectors and heirs about their experiences disposing of their collections.

November 28 – **Winter Stamp Bourse** 10am to 4pm at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. **Over 20 dealers** will be there, plus the club's sales circuit. Limited Free parking, Snack Bar – Wheelchair Access are also available. Information: 416-446-7720.or NTStampClub@yahoo.ca

For more information about the club, its meetings and programmes please contact president Leon Matthys (lmatthys@sympatico.ca) at 647-505-8461 or Peter Butler (pbutler@ilap.com) 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.

A Club auction will take place on October 21 and will start at 7pm

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 groups meet 3 times every week, twice in Oshawa, on Wednesday evenings from 6. pm to 8.30. pm, at Conant Seniors Centre on 115 Grassmere Ave. Oshawa and Friday mornings from 11 am to noon at Legends Community Centre 1661 Harmony Rd. N. Oshawa.

The Whitby Group meets every Monday morning, 10 am to noon at Whitby Seniors Building, 801 Brock Street Whitby – from Sept 14th, 2009 to May 17th 2010.

There are now more than 200 members with average attendance (weekly) of 75 to 85 at the three meetings each week. The Friday meeting is especially popular with members coming from as far away as Brighton, Trenton, Port Hope, Peterborough, Queensville, Pefferlaw, Barrie, Toronto and places in between. The Wednesday evening meeting is growing well.

At all venues there are a significant number of ladies attending.

The Group's function is to encourage seniors (and junior collectors) 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.

We are now encouraging and offering assistance to the Ajax Stamp Club who are restructuring their club and looking forward to a new season starting in Sept. 2009

There are two live voice auctions yearly with approximately 400 quality lots and two silent auctions each year of approximately 200 lots.

With our large membership you always find fresh material available at each meeting. Every meeting members offer surplus stamps and collections to each other starting at 5¢ per stamp.

We are always looking for new members with more stamps.

For more information – please contact –
Jim Stevenson, 905-576-4449 (Whitby or Oshawa)
Gordon Wick, 905-404-0796 (Oshawa)
Ron Christie, 905-432-7628 (Oshawa)
Don Beaumont, 905-426-3612 (Ajax. Whitby, or
Oshawa)
Alan Hynes, 905-433-8084 (Oshawa)
Larry Friend, 905-723-8798 (Oshawa or Whitby)
or email – lfriend@sympatico.ca

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 September 27, 2009; October 25, 2009; November 29, 2009 and December 13, 2009.

“Troyak” Club next Annual Show will be March 14, 2010 “*VII Polish – Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2010*”

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 Owczarz



Scouts On Stamps Society International Maple Leaf Chapter, SOSSI

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 Program for 2009/2010 includes:

Sep 20 – Toronto – Fairview Public Library
Summer Review

Oct 18 – Kitchener - Scout House – Clothesline

Nov 15 – Toronto – Annual Auction

Jan 17 – Mississauga – Chinese Community Centre
Annual General Meeting

Feb 21 – Toronto - “Let's Make a Deal” day.

Mar 21 – Kitchener - Scout House – Speaker

Apr 18 – Hamilton - Scout House – Clothesline

May 16 – Niagara Falls - Scout House/Museum
Speaker

If you would like to find out more about collecting Boy Scout and Girl Guide/Scout philatelic material, please contact

Tony Manson at (416) 447-4281 or
tony.manson@sympatico.ca.



Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club

The first meeting of the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club for the 2009-2010 year will be held on Tuesday 8th September, 2009 at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, 426 University Ave. at 8 p.m.

This meeting, in September of each year, is designated the Annual Meeting of the Club at which the officers for the new year (2010) will be elected. All members will be notified by mail of other topics for discussion at this meeting and for programme plans for the coming year.

All members of the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club are urged to attend.

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 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 officially begin at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming meetings, starting in September (our 33rd year), will be:

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 thank the St. Catharine's Stamp Club for a successful and enjoyable hosting of the 2009 Royal Canada's national stamp exhibition.

The Scarborough Stamp Club would also like to wish the Bramalea Stamp Club good luck on their upcoming show in October, 2009.

For Information call

Doug Cockburn at 416 - 757 -4072

Jim Carleton



Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto)

The Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto) meets on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, 2445 Bloor Street West, Toronto. UCST is also a chapter of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society.

For over 20 years, our group of dedicated collectors from Toronto and surrounding municipalities has shared the common goal of preserving the cultural history of Ukraine and its people around the world. Our Society works to unite Ukraine collectors, whatever their collecting interests: stamps, postal history, banknotes, coins, postcards, badges, orders and other memorabilia. We aim to facilitate exchanges of knowledge, opinions and news with respect to each collector's area of interest. We also provide a forum for exchange of collectible materials where members can buy new items, trade or sell duplicate material.

For more information about the Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto) contact Jerry Kalyn at 416-251-6898 or via email at ucst@upns.org.

Jerry Kalyn



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

We welcome members of GTAPA affiliated Clubs

We are sorry to report the passing of **Bruce Coleman**, a long standing member of West Toronto having joined in 1964 as Member #399.

Starting 8 September West Toronto Stamp Club will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of continuous operation throughout the season. The Organizing Committee has been at work for some time by planning and programming the activities to ensure that this major milestone is memorable. Our motto for the year is "75 for 75" meaning that at the end of the year our goal is to have 75 paid-up members.



This is what will take place.

Though the actual anniversary date is not until 10 March 2010, on the first meeting of 8 September, members will be given the 75th anniversary lapel pin (shown above) at the time the dues are paid. Members will also be given a special name tag

which will include the wording "I'm celebrating our 75th Year".

Promote the anniversary celebrations in the appropriate philatelic publications.

Promote vigorously our Club's activities in the community.

Stage a stamp exhibition open to the public to demonstrate what our members do with their philatelic items.

Celebrate the anniversary with a special dinner open to members and their partners, invited past members and special guests.

Print a first class anniversary program and produce a souvenir cachet cover with a special stamp and cancellation.

Stay tuned for further development.

Frank Alusio






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The Unreported Overprints of the Orange Free State

by John Wilson

Baffled, I looked at my Scott catalogue again and again. Every stamp of the old Orange Free State had the same design, so somewhere in that short listing there should have been a 1 ½ d. overprint...



The O.F.S. ordered its first, typographed, stamps from de la Rue in 1868 – three denominations only – added two more values in 1878, and three more in 1883-84. Colour changes were made in 1894 and 1897, but as far as the expenditure of money was concerned, this was a fiscally-conservative stamp-issuing country. Yet of 87 stamps in the current listings, a full 67 are provisionals on the unoverprinted values.



Though a postcard of ½ d. value had been issued in 1884, again from De La Rue, in 1889 the government began to sell postcards more economically – just card stock with a single stamp affixed. These stamps show the state coat-of-arms, with or without draped flags behind it. Financial necessity led the government to raise the overseas postcard rate to 1 ½ d. in 1892 and these stamps—values changed at the printing press, are unlisted in Scott.

Stanley Gibbons listings P1-P18 are the numbers allocated to stamps overprinted with the coat-of-arms; They include a penny brown value, a half-penny chestnut, the 1d. on 4d. provisional issue (shown used within a week of issue). And then our mystery friends –

five different penny-ha'penny overprints on the 2d. mauve value and another on the 3d. ultramarine. (The top card, above, is the 1895 type, identifiable by its swashbuckling figure "2"). There was also a mysterious ½ d. on the ½ d. chestnut stamp, then a final ½ d. overprint on the new shade of 1/2d orange. Six different post-BoerWar overprints of V.R.I. plus the penny-ha'penny value complete the SG listing. So, if you have an O.F.S. postcard stamp that has been soaked off its card – as I had – best look to Gibbons to identify it, and not Scott, once again found wanting by this collector.

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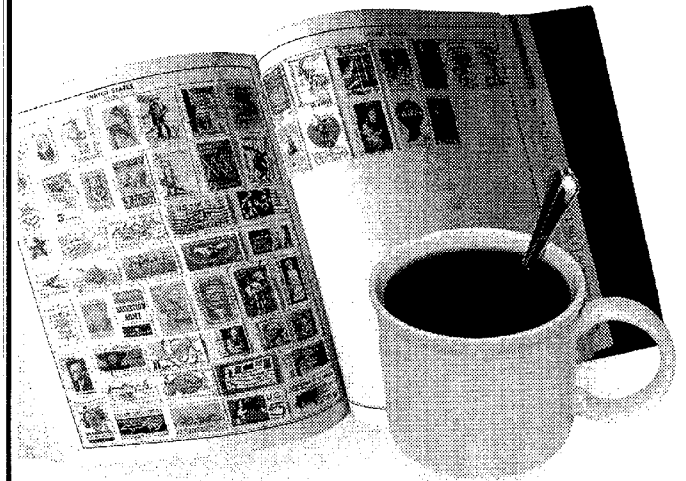
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DIRECTIONS

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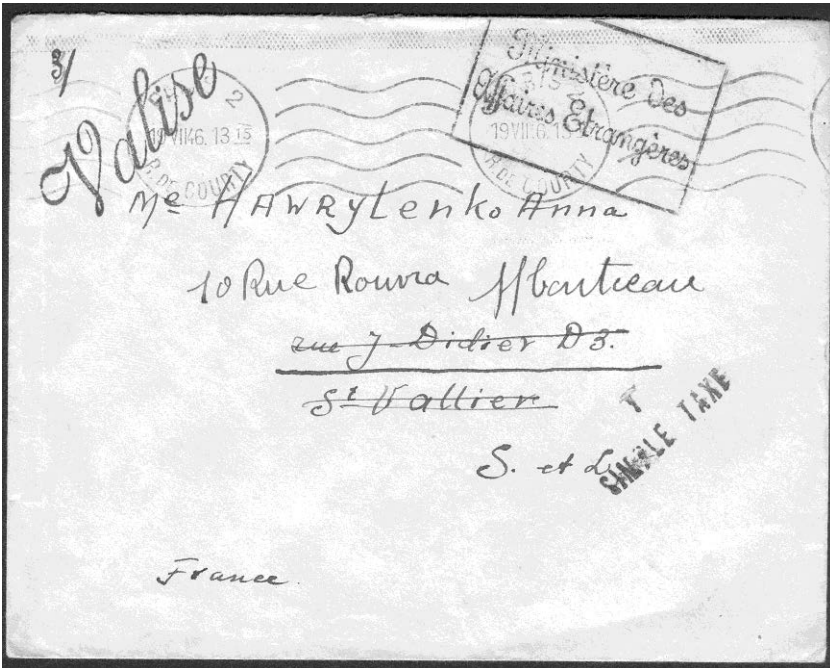
Postal Cheating



From my collection of "creative uses and abuses" of postal rates and stamps, I present two pieces that were used to remit insurance premiums. Each is a portion of the 1978 CAPEX issue (*Scott # 753*) that featured a pair of the classic 12-penny black of 1851.

An Interesting Cover

By Eugene Babiuk



This cover entered the postal system in PARIS on July 19, 1946 having been carried from MOSCOW by diplomatic pouch. The cover carries a purple handstamp "Valise" and a black handstamp "Ministère Des Affaires Etrangères". Presumably, the cover was charged a single domestic rate for forwarding to a revised address.

*Hawrylenko.
Moscou, Ambassade de France.*

The return address on the back flap indicates that the letter originated at the French Embassy in Moscow.

Eugene is a member of the West Toronto Stamp Club



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Clippings & Commentary

by Peter Butler, FRPSC

One of the special opportunities that I enjoy from the involvement with the National Office of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) is that I get to read newsletters that come into the office from clubs across the country to be filed in The RPSC Library at the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

Earlier this year, a newsletter from the **Calgary Philatelic Society (CPS)** arrived and before it reached the librarian's desk, I whisked it away and began browsing through it to catch any good philatelic news from Calgary or to find an article or two to read while eating a sandwich. The first item that caught my eye was an article on Sandford Fleming, a Canadian icon in the development of the railroads to the west coast but perhaps more important for stamp collectors, the designer of a few of Canada's early stamps. The article was written by **Ron Tabbert**, the editor of the newsletter. It was a great read so I decided to send an email to tell him so. I'll be honest though, what really caught my interest was a picture postage stamp beside his name showing him at the engineer's window of a steam train... and everyone knows I love to collect railroad stamps and picture postage stamps!

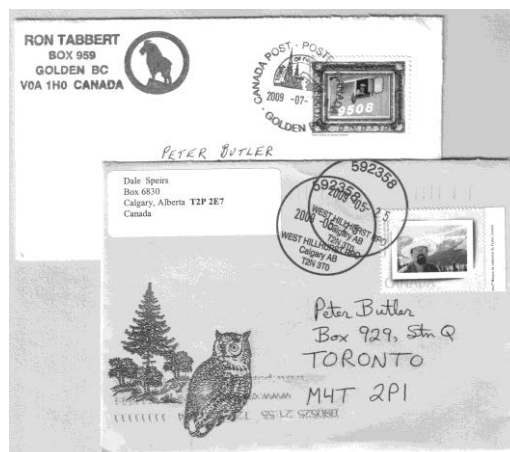
Remembering that two months earlier I had written an article about the same great Canadian, I decided to send him a copy of the *PhilaJournal* instead. The article had been written from the standpoint of a plaque on the wall of a Yonge Street building and Fleming's office being just around the corner where the three penny beaver, the province of Canada's first stamp, had first been drawn. I thought Ron would enjoy it.

Before I put the plan into action, I received a copy of The RPSC press release announcing that **Dale Speirs** had been awarded the Geldert Medal (voted the best article in *The Canadian Philatelist*, in 2008). Dale is a member of the CPS... and you won't believe this... beside his name in the announcement was a picture of him in a Stetson hat, on a picture postage stamp. I think you are way ahead of me on this one!

I proceeded to write one letter to both **Dale Speirs** and **Ron Tabbert** with congratulations all around, included two copies of *PhilaJournal* and slipped in at the end, a request for a copy of each of the picture postage stamps, if still available.

I received responses from both gentlemen equally delighted to receive my letter, the GTAPA newsletter and the request for copies of their picture postage stamps. Below are the two covers that I received in reply, with mint

copies inside. I remembered a quotation from my schooldays that stated, if you never act on dreams that could be, you'll never see dreams that will be ... or something like that.



But that's not all the good news that can arise from reading and writing letters. In Ron's letter he mentioned that the picture postage stamp of him at the window of the steam engine was a response he had made to a special offer made through Fuji Film to purchase picture postage at a discounted rate that was available to businesses. He had decided to purchase 10 sheets of the stamps at face value (54¢ as opposed to twice that price when usually buying picture postage) and sent in a favourite photo.

That was precisely the information I had been searching for with regard to the Fuji offer of 2006. Those sheets had been illustrated and a number listed in the *Unitrade* catalogue but no information had been given about the production or sale of the stamps. The following year the Fuji Sheet was not included in the catalogue and for collectors of picture (personal) postage, there was now frustration because neither Canada Post nor Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd. were able to provide any history of the Fuji offer.

Ron also mentioned another important piece of information in his letter. Only the gold frame border to the stamps was available with this offer (usually one gets a choice of two background frames). That meant that business-looking picture postage stamps, as opposed to pictures of family members, pets or special occasions, would indicate that they probably might have been produced using the Fuji Film offer. This was an extra piece of information that was very valuable to researching the topic. I forwarded this new information to **Robin Harris**, the editor of the *Unitrade* catalogue to bring a shred of light to the Fuji listing, as a sample of the type of picture postage that was printed in 2006. We'll be watching in the next issue of the catalogue due out in October, to see if this new information is included.

continued on page 15 ...

Clippings & Commentary (continued)

The clipping was from the CPS newsletter. The commentary was my tie-in with picture postage from two Calgary club members and the story of how one of them obtained the stamps... key information for me as a collector of these stamps. Isn't it amazing how the hobby works, and in such unpredictable ways? And that's what makes the hobby such a great pastime bringing even more enjoyment as a result of talking, writing and sharing with fellow collectors from across the country. Lucky us!

Late footnote:

I forgot to mention with regard to the Speirs' cover... the postal clerk missed the stamp with his/her first effort so thought he/she should do it again on the upper left corner. A double cancellation much better than most! Note that the cover went through the cancellation machine upside down, cancelling the owl, not the pictorial cancellation or the stamp. How good is that? The two of them are prized covers!

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Palmares

Following are members of GTAPA clubs who presented exhibits in St. Catharines in June 2009

Robert Pinet (North Toronto)

Montreal, Economic Engine of the Dominion: Selected Illustrated Mail

Vermeil medal

Ralph Blunk (North Toronto)

Mail on Rails in Schleswig-Holstein

Silver medal

Mark Stelmacovich (Ukrainian Collectibles)

Introduction to Ukraine's Contemporary Provisionals

Silver medal

APS Award for Post 1980

John Dinoff Estate (assembled and entered by Garfield Portch – West Toronto / North Toronto)

Philatelic Exhibition Labels

Silver medal

Gord Payne (West Toronto)

Canada: Colorano Silk Cachet Covers, 1973-94

Silver-Bronze Medal

Victor Skidra (West Toronto)

The Palaces of Latvia

Bronze Medal

SINGLE FRAME EXHIBITS

Steve Johnson (Bramalea / North Toronto)

Yukon Airways & Exploration Co. Ltd.

Gold Medal

Canadian Airmail Society: Best Canadian Airmail

BNAPS: Best One-frame BNA

Garfield Portch (West Toronto / North Toronto)

Canada: The Half-Cent Small Queen

Vermeil medal

John Wilson (North Toronto / West Toronto)

Mail to & from Ships in Hong Kong Harbour, 1860 – 1940

Silver medal

Frank Alusio (West Toronto)

Giovanni Caboto and His Discovery of Canada

Silver-Bronze medal

The full *Palmares* can be read on the internet at www.rpsc.org

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Plans are underway for the Grand Fair being hosted by the Bramalea Stamp Club on Sunday October 18, 2009. This is a joint event of the

Grand River Valley Philatelic Association and the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m

Location: High School Cafeteria adjacent to Terry Miller Centre, 1295 Williams Parkway, Brampton

One feature of the Grand Fair will be a special single-frame Club Challenge competition. Here are the rules in brief:

- 3 (or more) members from each club submit separate one-frame exhibits of 16 pages each
- Each exhibit must be an individual subject treated as a one-frame exhibit in its own right
- Judging will be conducted by GTAPA-appointed accredited philatelic judges
- The cumulative score of each club's best 3 exhibits will be ranked in order and the club with the most points will win the honour of the Club Challenge

GTAPA member clubs will vie for their traditional Club Challenge trophy, while GRVPA clubs will compete for their own award.

A major purpose of the Club Challenge is to encourage participation by exhibitors at all levels of experience from novice to advanced. The prizes notwithstanding, every entrant will experience the thrill of showing off 16 pages of their collection to their stamp collecting peers.

An Outstanding New Book!

preview by Garfield Portch



On the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the joint issue of stamps, a new book has been written by **Charles J.G. Verge** (North Toronto Stamp Club) and published by the **Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation**.

The book is soft cover, 11" x 8½", 210 pages and in colour throughout. It will carry a retail price of only \$39.95 and will be available early in September, 2009.

When I first became involved in the production of this book, I was astonished to realize that the story of a single stamp could run more than 200 pages. I must now confess that I got caught up in the book during the proofing and preparatory stages and can report that this is a wonderfully researched, well written, and easily readable book that reveals the facts behind Canada's most famous error, the "inverted seaway". The scope of the book is illustrated by the Table of Contents:

Chapter 1: From Ancient Hope to Realisation: The St. Lawrence Seaway

Chapter 2: The Joint Issue: From Idea to Adopted Concept

Chapter 3: Cross-Border Negotiations

Chapter 4: The Canadian Stamp — From Design to Production

Chapter 5: The U. S. Stamp — From Design to Production and Beyond

Chapter 6: The First Day of Issue — June 26, 1959

Chapter 7: The Inverted Seaway Stamp

Chapter 8: The Finds and their Stories

Chapter 9: The Largest Multiples

Chapter 10: The Covers

Chapter 11: The Other Varieties of the Canadian Stamp
Epilogue, Bibliography, Index

Orders for this book can be given to your club representative and will be filled at the next GTAPA Board meeting.



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These seminars are open to all but are primarily for those exhibitors who exhibit or wish to exhibit at the International level and judges who wish to refresh their skills or are contemplating FIP apprenticeship in these disciplines. The information given them can benefit all exhibitors and judges or those interested in becoming exhibitors or judges.

The Thematic Seminar lasts 1½ days and will be led by Dr. Damian Läge, Chairman, FIP Commission for Thematic Literature. The fee is \$20 and includes lunch on October 31.

The Postal History Seminar lasts 2-3 hours and will be led by Dr. Jan J. Danielski, Secretary, FIP Commission for Postal History. There is no cost for this seminar.

For further information and registration contact **Charles Verge** at cjgverge@rogers.com

The Mailbox

We received this letter from Harold Leonhardt (Scarborough Stamp Club) from Germany... with beautiful stamps:

" My sincere thanks for placing my advertisement "stamps wanted, Lichtenstein" in the PhilaJournal [Ed Note: Toonie Ad]. I received many calls and it was well-worth the effort. I am in Dresden right now, with too much to see and not much time for letters. I did, however, want readers to know how great the two dollar ad in PhilaJournal was in getting stamps from other collectors."

Help from GTAPA Club members is solicited:

My name is Peter Barnes and I am with the Georgian Bay Coin and Stamp Club, (Formerly the Collingwood Coin and Stamp Club). We meet twice a month, all 12 months, the first Tuesday evening in Midland, and the second Tuesday evening in Wasaga Beach.

First I would like to invite any visitors from the GTAPA and the GRVPA to look us up and join in a meeting. Contact with me will provide details, directions, etc. The second reason for my letter is to solicit presentations on one's collection or specialty etc. by your members.

I am a former member at the Bramalea Club, and currently also a member at the Clearwater and St. Petersburg, Florida Clubs in the winter.

*Peter Barnes
Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club
Vice President/Area Director-Midland Chapter
petergbarnes@rogers.com
705-534-3771*

From North Toronto member **Tony Hines**, we received the following:

Field Trip: NTSC goes to the Royal

The RPSC 2009 convention was held at the Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catharines from June 12th to 14th, 2009.

Exhibitors John Wilson, Garfield Portch and Ralph Blunk represented NTSC.

On three days of the convention Ralph Blunk provided automotive transportation to NTSC members. On Friday, Ralph transported NYPS member Bob Hattam and Tony Hine, and on Saturday John Laraway, Tony Hine & Leon Matthys attended.

The enjoyable company on the ride proved again that stamp collecting is not about how many stamps you have nor which covers you own, it is about the friends you make and the friends you meet.

Thanks to Ralph for transporting your fellow members to St. Catharines.

Mission Accomplished!

The searchable index of the Harry Sutherland Library at the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation is now up and running on the internet. The link is found at
<http://greenefoundation.ca>

Congratulations to the library staff – **Sheila Moll, Eshe Mercer-James, Michelle Collins and Willow Moonbeam.**

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