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Oshawa Whitby Stamp Groups  
Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club  
Scarborough Stamp Club  
Scouts on Stamps International  
Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club  
Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto)  
West Toronto Stamp Club

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Garfield Portch  
Harvey Shuter  
Bob Thorne, FRPSC  
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#### MEETINGS

Directors meet monthly on the fourth  
Wednesday at the  
Vincent Graves Greene  
Philatelic Research Foundation  
10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto  
Visitors are welcome.

*We work best when we work together*

## PhilaJournal Earns Gold Medal!

**P**hilaJournal has been awarded a gold medal in the 2009 American Philatelic Society Chapter Newsletter Competition. Thanks go to all those clubs and individuals who contributed to our success.

## Website Reactivated

**A**fter a lengthy period of dormancy, we are pleased to announce that the web site of the GTAPA has returned to active status. At first glance, it may appear that nothing has changed from the old site, but that is far from being the case. As is usual, some of the sections are fully operational, but others are waiting for submissions to populate the space available.

Under the heading 'Member Clubs' a link has been established to the email address for each club's designated contact. An additional link has been set up to connect directly with club web sites, if they exist. For clubs not having a web presence, a provision is being made to allow for a "mini site" within the GTAPA site.

The "Coming Events" operates both via the sidebar and the field in the upper right that shows the next five events. By clicking on the event in the display field, a viewer will be taken to a page containing details of the specific event. A click on the side bar will display a calendar containing every event that has been submitted. The calendar can, of course, be advanced by using the arrows at the top.

The "GTAPA News" will allow clubs to present stories and pictures of club activities in a timely fashion. To have a story posted, a club needs to submit a Word document (please don't format) with jpeg photos attached. Stories will be retained while relevant after which they will either be moved to an archive or deleted.

It is the hope that this web site will become the spot where internet surfers will visit first to discover philatelic activity in the Greater Toronto Area.

We have assigned two webmasters to ensure regular and prompt access for any and all club postings.

**Garfield Portch** gportch@ca.inter.net

**Robert Owczarz** robertow@axxent.ca

Questions and correspondence should be directed to the Secretary

**Peter Butler** pbutler@ilap.ca

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**DIRECTIONS**

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church is 1 block north of St. Clair Avenue on the east side of Yonge Street. There is subway access from the St. Clair station. Free parking at the church is limited. City parking (Green P) is available on Alvin Ave., 1 block east, for which there is a charge.

**Philatelic Dictionary**

**Fugitive Ink:** A security ink that is designed to run when immersed in water or solvents.

**Fugitive Cancel:** A type of security cancel made in soluble ink so the ink will run and destroy the stamp if an attempt is made to wash and reuse the stamp.

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Contact: **Peter Jacobi**, Secretary

#6, 2168 – 150 A Street

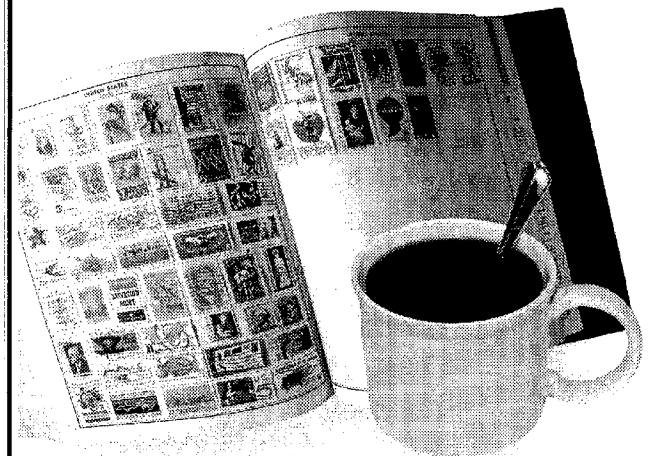
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# PhilaJournal

The official publication of  
The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

Box 45, 260 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1N1

*PhilaJournal* is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to members of stamp clubs that are members of the Alliance.

## The Mission:

The mission of *PhilaJournal* is to provide its readers with news and information on philately in general with emphasis on the GTAPA members giving them something new and interesting to enjoy.

Opinions expressed in articles in *PhilaJournal* are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Alliance. The GTAPA cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information provided herein.

Permission is granted to reprint material from *PhilaJournal*, provided that appropriate credit is given to both *PhilaJournal* and the author.

## Editorial Staff

Editor: Garfield Portch gportch@ca.inter.net  
Assistant: Peter Butler pbutler@ilap.com  
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## Subscriptions

Non-members may subscribe to *PhilaJournal* for an annual fee of \$16.00 by cheque payable to: GTAPA

## Advertising

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

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

## Rates (effective September, 2007)

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ToonieAd (Up to 5 lines)	\$2.00	\$8.00
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1/4 page	\$40.00	\$120.00
1/2 page	\$60.00	\$200.00
Full page (7-1/2" x 10")	\$125.00	\$400.00
Banner (1" x 5", front page)	\$50.00	\$200.00

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

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

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## THE EDITOR'S SPACE

What an amazing five and a half years it has been. It doesn't seem that long, but I have now edited 22 issues of *PhilaJournal*. It has been one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of my life. This does not mean to say, however, that we haven't had challenges.

As announced to the Board of Directors early this year, the time has come for me to move on to new challenges. I appear to have inherited the job of webmaster for the GTAPA site and also appear to be destined to take the same job for the West Toronto Stamp Club.

Before giving up this slot on page 3, I wish to thank the Board of Directors for giving me free rein to format and edit *PhilaJournal* as I saw fit. I also thank Ernie Nyitrai and Peter Butler for their assistance - without them the publication would have been non-existent. Special thanks go to the contributors, club reporters and advertisers who gave a purpose to *PhilaJournal*. I also wish to state my appreciation to our many readers who have expressed support and appreciation for my journalistic efforts.

We have been well rewarded with three medals in literature competition in 2007 and 2009.

My replacement has not yet been announced, but to that person I pledge my support.

gjp

## DEADLINE

The Fall Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of August. Submissions must be in the editor's possession by the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 2010.

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## President's Message

by Larry Friend

### ***Grow Your Club: Does your club need a boost?***

In the past few months I have visited many clubs and club events learning many tips that have stimulated a few of the clubs.

Other than the obvious examples - West Toronto's Mall Show - Oshawa's 400 lot club auction - the one day shows and bourses of Troyak, Peterborough, Ajax and other clubs - there are many lessons to be learned visiting other club functions. While some of the following ideas may not be new they are working and worth repeating.

As a visiting guest of the Trenton and Peterborough club I could not help noticing that both clubs have an impressive lineup, each month, of a guest dealer or speaker.

Peterborough, for example, has a large number of "Woolworth Books" (5¢ and 10¢ per stamp). Several clubs are starting or have strong sale circuit books.

Ajax's membership is growing as a result of the club auction each meeting as well as the growing number of sales circuit books. Member turn out has likely doubled from last season.

Peterborough moved its winter meetings from evenings to days, a small thing, but helped its members who did not want to drive in the dark or winter conditions.

Some clubs suspend meetings throughout the summer months, while others meet once a month and still others do not skip a beat, meeting as usual but starting earlier in the day.

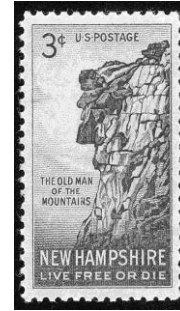
Oshawa/Whitby uses a table of honour. Members bring their priced extra stamps, in stock books, boxes, bags, albums etc. - stamps are put on a table in the middle of the room where other members can pick up one of the items mentioned, take it to their table and go through looking for treasures. When done, they look for the member who put the stamps on the table and pay him directly. This works especially well as members can go through a large number of stamps each meeting while others are divesting themselves of their extra stamps. A Win - Win situation!

Other clubs use door prize draws as an interest getter. Many of the door prizes are donated and tickets are purchased for a minimal amount with proceeds going to club coffers. Other clubs have a straight 50/50 draw - winners are always happy!

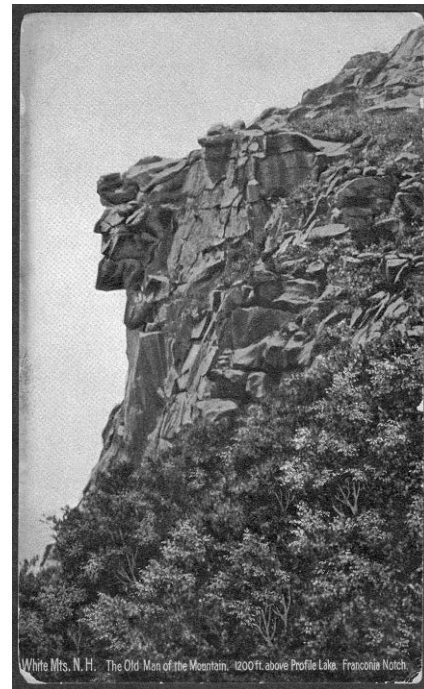
If your club is doing something new or special - please pass it on!

## The Old Man of the Mountains

by Paul Nicholls



The Old Man was a natural rock formation in the Franconia Notch of the White Mountains, located on Cannon Mountain. Cannon Mountain used to be called Profile Mountain but it was renamed in 1917. Cannon Mountain, with a height of 3,693 m and two others nearby, are collectively known as the "Cannon Balls" because of their rounded shape.



The mountain is a type of geological formation known as an exfoliating granite dome which means it is layered like an onion. It is these layers, overlapping one upon the other, that made the face, about 13 m high, and 9 m wide.

In recent years, cables and epoxy glue were used in an attempt to counter weathering, especially the effects of ice and snow. But overnight May 2/3, 2003, the Old Man of the Mountain fell away.

*Paul Nicholl is a member of the Bramalea Stamp Club*

## GTAPA MEMBER CLUBS' NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### Ajax Philatelic Society

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month from 7 pm - 9 pm at the Ajax Public Library on Harwood Road South (just south of the 401).

There is a 40 lot member's auction at each meeting. Non members are welcomed and invited to bid - only members can put items into the auction.

PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF OUR MEMBERS FOR SUMMER SCHEDULE

There is plenty of *free parking* and wheelchair accessibility - coffee and cookies *are free*

"Apex '10" - was a great success - thanks to all who attended

For more information contact -

**Roy Haina** (during the day) at 905-259-7487

Email - hainastamps@rogers.com

**David Williams** - 905-666-9819

Email - stampbookdw@yahoo.com

**Don Beaumont** - 905-426-3612

Email - donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com

*Don Beaumont*



### Bramalea Stamp Club

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

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

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

There were two recent changes to the Bramalea Stamp Club executive team. **Don Garlick** became Treasurer replacing **Geoff Green** and **Ron Walker** took on the role of Secretary/Membership Chairman, a position previously held by **Paul Nicholls**. Thanks are extended to Geoff and Paul for the fine jobs they did during their terms of office.

Sunday June 6 will be our last Sunday meeting until Sunday October 3. The Tuesday meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month will continue to be held throughout the summer.

Tuesday night themes are:

June 15	Trees
July 20	Military
August 17	Canadian National Exhibition
September 21	Nudes

*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.

The objective of the club is to provide a meeting place to enjoy the hobby.

*Doug Cockburn*



### Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society

The Club meets on the third Thursday each 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.



### North Toronto Stamp Club

The club welcomes guests to all its meetings, which are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joel@joelruimy.com)

The program highlight for June will be a 2-part presentation entitled You Can't Take it With You.

The first session on June 10 will be led by **Tony Maresch** of *R. Maresch & Son*, one of Canada's most successful and the longest running stamp auction house. When it comes to the disposition of collections, what are the options I need to consider in selling them? What are the other options that don't involve selling?

Part 2 on June 24 will be led by **JoAnne Anderson** from MPI Tax Services. JoAnne will address the issues of what to do with the proceeds of disposition to benefit your heirs and what makes life simpler for those who inherit collections. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

We will welcome family members to both of these sessions.

For more information about the club, its meetings and programmes please contact president **Leon Matthys** ([lmattlys@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmattlys@sympatico.ca)) at 647-505-8461 or **Peter Butler** ([pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com)) at 416-690-4666.



## North York Philatelic Society

Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from September to June (July and August 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, (2 blocks west of Bathurst Street). Everyone is welcome at any of our meetings. Membership is \$5.00 per year. NYPS is a member of Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

For more information about the North York Philatelic Society contact Mike Turk at 905-731-8380 or via e-mail at [turkm@accessv.com](mailto:turkm@accessv.com).



## Oshawa/Whitby Stamp Groups

The Oshawa/Whitby stamp 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 1 pm at Legends Community Centre 1661 Harmony Rd. N. Oshawa. In the summer months we start 1 hour sooner. *Please check with one of our members listed below for summer start times.*

The Whitby Group meets every Monday morning 10 am to noon at Whitby Seniors Building, 801 Brock Street Whitby - to May 2010 recess for summer starting up in September. *Please contact one of the members for fall starting hours.*

There are now more than 200 members with average attendance (weekly) of 75 to 85 at the 3 meetings each week. The Friday meetings 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 is 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.

Thanks to all who attended our April 25<sup>th</sup> Auction - making it the largest success yet.

For more information - please contact -  
Jim Stevenson - 905-576-4449 - Whitby/Oshawa  
Gordon Wick - 905-404-0796 - Oshawa  
Ron Christie - 905-432-7628 - Oshawa/Ajax  
Lawrence Worrall - 905-436-9034 - Oshawa  
Don Beaumont -905-426-3612-  
Ajax/Whitby/Oshawa  
Alan Hynes - 905-433-8084 - Oshawa  
Larry Friend - 905-723-8798 - Oshawa/Whitby  
Or email - [lfriend@sympatico.ca](mailto:lfriend@sympatico.ca)

Larry Friend



## Polish-Canadian Coin and Stamp Club

Club *Troyak*, meets on the last Sunday of each month, at 4:30 p.m. at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario.

Club's 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 GTAPA.

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 *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](mailto:bzygmunt@hotmail.com).

"Troyak" Club next meetings are planned for ..... May 30, 2010 and June 27, 2010.

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

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

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](mailto:tony.manson@sympatico.ca).

## Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club

The speaker at next month's meeting (June 8<sup>th</sup>) of the TSCC will be **Dr. Raj Ramphal** and his topic is "British West Indies Postmarks" (starts at 8 p.m.)

Members and visitors are urged to attend the meeting as it will be our last at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. The RCMI will be leaving their building in mid June prior to it being demolished to make way for a high rise multi-residence structure. The RCMI will occupy the lower 6 floors in the new structure.

The TSCC does not normally meet in July and August and our plans for meetings in the Fall will be announced in the next issue of PhilaJournal.

For more information contact  
**Owen White** at 416-481-4731  
or by email at [owen.white@sympatico.ca](mailto:owen.white@sympatico.ca)



## Scarborough Stamp Club

The club will continue to meet at the Cedarbrook Community Centre at least for the remainder of the current year..

We will meet in rooms #1 and #2 the first and third Tuesdays of each month except the second week of December due to our Christmas party which will be held on the first Tuesday of the month.

The first meeting each month will be a trading night and our club's circuit books will be available.

At the meeting on the third Tuesday each month, there will be a short official meeting. A member's draw (you must be present to win) will be held for which members may purchase tickets to win philatelic prizes, and an auction.

There may be a speaker to discuss some aspect of stamp collecting, and of course the circuit books will be available.

Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be no meetings in July or August.

September will begin our 34<sup>th</sup> year as a club.

Our elections were held in March with the present executive staying on for another two years with **Doug Cockburn** at the helm.



At our April meeting **Elaine Skinner** received a Certificate of Merit for her great work with the Alliance. She was one of the founding members and a director for East Toronto Stamp Club. The certificate was presented by **Peter Butler**.

The newest representative on the GTAPA Board is **Ron Dell'Agnes** joining as a director from the Scarborough Stamp Club. Welcome aboard.

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](mailto:ucst@upns.org).

*Jerry Kalyn*



## West Toronto Stamp Club

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from September to June at:

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

*We welcome members of GTAPA affiliated Clubs*

The activities on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday take place in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 pm (Work Shops) and in the evening from 6:30 to 8:30 pm (Silent and Vocal Auctions). The activities on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday take place in the evening only from 6:30 to 8:30 pm (Silent and Vocal Auctions).



Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations went well with two events marking the occasion. Cloverdale Mall was the site of a Saturday show consisting of 20 frames of varied exhibits, free stamps for kids and volunteer members providing information to the public. The day was an absolute success and was reported on the front cover of The Etobicoke Guardian in the next issue.

Our second event was an anniversary banquet that was attended and enjoyed by 66 members and guests. The post dinner activities provided an opportunity to present **Reay Cairns** with an Honourary Life Membership in recognition of his past services as President and his ongoing service as Director and auctioneer.

Thanks to **Rob Taylor**, the Club launched a web site in the first week of May. As with all web projects, it is a work in progress and will take some time to populate.

Please visit us at [www.westtorontostampclub.org](http://www.westtorontostampclub.org)

The site is also accessible through a direct link on the GTAPA web site.



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# secret?

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### Unusual Postage Stamps

*by Jerry Piotrowski*

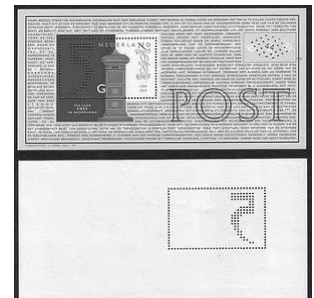
In an earlier article in this series I wrote about the Hungarian souvenir sheet issued with a die cut hole in the stamp. Other than perfins added by private or government interests after the actual stamps have been produced many stamp issues have had holes used as part of the design.

In 1996 Canada issued a semi-postal (Scott B13) for Canadian Literacy. This stamp has a die cut hole in the shape of a missing jigsaw puzzle piece. The numeral used for the denomination on a souvenir sheet issued in 1999 by the Netherlands to commemorate Netherlands Postal Service Bicentennial (Scott 1039) is made up of a series of perforations. Liechtenstein's Christmas issue of 2004 (Scott 1035-07) was of stamps where the edges have been punched out with a series of hole simulating lacework.

The US Postal Service honored Alfred Hitchcock in 1998 with a stamp in the series Legends of Hollywood (Scott 3226). On the upper left corner of the stamp is a die cut of the famous Hitchcock profile.

Related to the die cuts in the actual stamp design are

special additions to the perforations on some issues. The above-mentioned Hitchcock stamp has an additional feature namely that the corner perforations on the stamps are in the shape of stars in keeping with his status as a star.



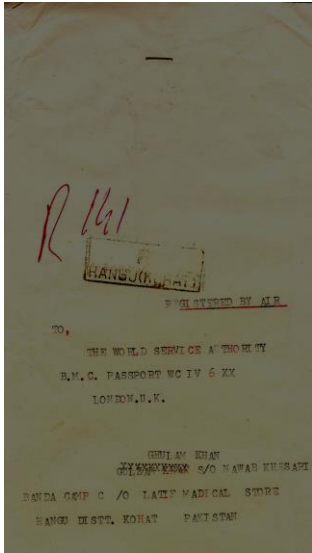
Canada has also used special perforations on two issues. The October 2005 Big Cats issue (Scott 2122-23) used a Maple Leaf to replace 3 perforation holes between the two stamps. The same technique was used for the 3007 International Polar Year issue (Scott 2204-05)

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

# Afghani Refugee Camp In Pakistan

by Robert Pinet

The modern history of Afghanistan, from its invasion by the Soviet Union in 1979, to the CIA-backing of the Taliban as a guerrilla army, their subsequent ascension to power, and the US war launched against Afghanistan after 9/11 is well known to Canadians. It is especially poignant given the fact that 143 Canadian soldiers and sailors have died in the conflict (at the time of printing this article) since Canada became involved in 2002.



This cover is from Ghulam Khan, c/o Nawan Khesari, Banda Camp, c/o Latif Medical (*sic.*) Store, Hangu Distt. Kohat, Pakistan. It is addressed – on the same side of the envelope – to the World Service Authority, B.M.C. Passport, WCIV XX London U.K. There is also a rectangular registration handstamp reading: R/HANGU (Kohat), and a manuscript R141. The reverse of the cover is franked with 5 Rupees and 60 paisas of stamps. The cancels are very faint, but date from 1982.

Kohat is a medium-sized town in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan, is located at an elevation of 489 metres and is the capital of Kohat District. The area is home to Pashto-speaking tribes, who welcomed their Pashto-speaking neighbours from Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion in 1979. Kohat is home to a score of refugee camps. This cover may have come from either Lakhti Banda or Ghulam Banda camp.

The World Service Authority is an organization that issues passports to stateless persons. It is located in London. “The mandate for a World Passport on Article 13 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country”<sup>i</sup>. The World

Passport has been accepted on a *de facto* basis by many countries, and as a *de jure* passport in six. Canada has recognized the World Passport, on occasion.

This cover thus records the application of a presumably stateless Afghani refugee living in Pakistan to obtain a World Passport. We cannot know if Ghulam Khan received his passport and left Pakistan. Many refugees returned to Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet forces in 1989. However, many more remain. According to a United Nations High Commission for Refugees map of Afghanistan Refugee Camps in 2004<sup>ii</sup>, there were at least 2.5 million Afghans were still living in Pakistan, housed in 150-190 refugee camps, mainly along the border with Afghanistan. However, some estimates run to 10 million.

After two generations of living in Pakistan, many Afghans have melded into the NWFP culture. Some are involved in everything from illegal smuggling operations and terrorism; others have obtained positions of skilled labour and legal commerce, and made fortunes<sup>iii</sup>. Afghans in Pakistan are there to stay.

<sup>1</sup> www.worldservice.org/docpass.html

<sup>1</sup> www.worldservice.org/docpass.html

<sup>1</sup> www.helium.com/.../1594311-afghan-refugees-in-pakistan-reasons-and-implications

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# An Introduction To Collecting Mourning Covers

by Robert Traquair

Perhaps no other aspect of social history has the customs, rituals, behaviour and beliefs than those surrounding death. In spite of being to some, a morbid subject, collecting of mourning memorabilia-necrology is a popular topic and includes of course, covers, stamps and other philatelic material -Necrophilately-. This interest in covers has been memorialized by a musical piece of the 30's, A LETTER EDGED IN BLACK, and more recently, for those with an interest in Country Western music, the song MULE TRAIN by Frankie Lane which contains the phrase "There's a letter full of sadness and it's black around the border".

According to a report in MOURNING NOTES, the journal of THE MOURNING STAMPS AND COVERS CLUB, in early 2009, Mourning Covers (MCs) are now known to have been used in at least 250 different stamp issuing countries. The list includes 17 stamp issuing entities known as dead or inactive countries.

The black marking on MCs make them distinguishable from other types of covers. These are some of the major characteristics of MCs:



- **Width of the marking:** This can vary from approximately one m.m. to 4.1 cm. And size varies widely. This is an opportune time to elaborate on the width of the black mourning mark. Often, dealers and novice MC collectors, have been vocal that the width of the black

band varies according to the relationship of the sender and the receiver. Others have expressed belief that the black band was of larger size during the initial mourning period and was then gradually reduced. These are both myths which have been documentary dispelled.

- **Size:** Covers are known to be as small as 7.9 x 4.1 cm. And as large as 2.9 x 16.2 cm.
- **Shape:** The most common shape is rectangular but some are squarish and other stranger shapes have been found.
- **Placement of the black marking:** Typically on the edge of the cover but some have inset lines and some with diagonal stripes or a single stripe.
- **Design of the marking:** Most often this is a straight line but more elaborate designs are known.
- **Reverse and back flap designs:** These are often fancier than the front and some have a flap embossment and a wax seal.

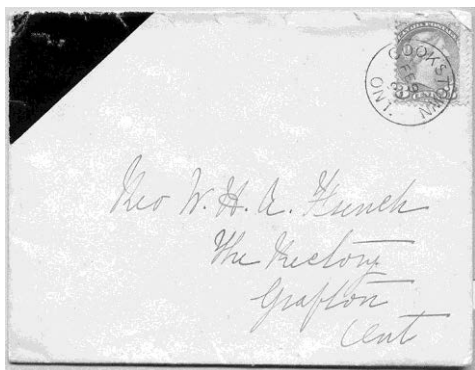
Most of the knowledge that this writer has acquired has been gleaned from a book "MOURNING COVERS: The Cultural and Postal History of Letters Edged in Black" by Ernest A Mosher, now deceased. This book of 354 pages was based on Ernest's own collection of over 2,000 MCs and another 2,000 MCs made available by dealers and other collectors. Much of the data used in preparation of this article is attributable to this book.

The mourning mark designs categorized in Ernest's book, are as follows:

- Type 1: Basic Black Edge.
- Type 2: Black Edge on Back Only.
- Types 3, 4, and 5: More elaborate designs that are rarely found.
- Type 6: Cross - Hatched



- Type 7: Solid Left Corner.



- Type 8: Left Top Corner Angle Mark
- Type 9: Left Corner Angle Stripes
- Types 10 to 17: All very elusive markings.

If any further information is required, I would be pleased to respond to all communications. Good Hunting!!

[bobtraq@yahoo.ca](mailto:bobtraq@yahoo.ca)

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## An Invitation to Join THE MOURNING STAMPS & COVERS CLUB

The purpose of the Mourning Stamps & Covers Club is to promote the association of mourning stamp and cover collectors in activities that are conducive to the common growth in knowledge and enjoyment in all aspects in this field of philately.

Mourning covers can be defined as black-edged posted letters used in many countries, especially during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as harbingers of death and messages of grief. These death-related letters are signalled by a mourning mark, almost always in black, and were carried in the public mail system in at least 217 countries.

The MSCC was founded in 2006 and has an international membership. It publishes a quarterly newsletter of approximately 20 pages entitled Mourning Notes, available by email in colour or by regular mail in black and white. Meetings of the club have been held at various conventions of the American Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, as well as at smaller regional exhibitions.

Membership dues are US\$15.00 per year.

For a membership application, please contact Jim Bailey, P.O. Box 937, Brownwood, Texas, 76804 USA ([jfbailey238@earthlink.net](mailto:jfbailey238@earthlink.net)).

Further information on the MSCC may be obtained from club members Shirley Griff ([shirley@griffrealestate.com](mailto:shirley@griffrealestate.com)) or Bob Traquair ([bobtraq@yahoo.ca](mailto:bobtraq@yahoo.ca)) / (416) 924-3271

## The MACHIN Corner

by Dave Moss

Hello again with what has turned out to be a popular segment in the PhilaJournal.

As an engineering consultant, I find that before settling into a particular new area of collecting, I have to determine the exact direction I wish to go into and then plan for it accordingly.

My Machin collecting bug started many years ago when I simply started amassing a huge number of stamps with a view to sorting at a later date. Unfortunately without any real planning the collection simply grew but in no specific direction. My limited sorting at that time consisted of grouping the various face values and/or colours together. Then over a period, subtle differences between certain stamps of the same value and colour started to catch my eye. It was not until later that I learned the differences resulted from the two printing methods involved, photogravure and lithography. Without knowing the true differences I began separating all the stamps with a “duller” appearance, these I learned later were the lithographed items.

During my interrogation of these stamps I also noticed recurrent differences in the widths of the values. Fortunately most differences were also linked to colour changes, which made for easier recognition. However, some changes did occur without a new colour. Of note here were the 2p greenish grey, the 4p turquoise, the 5p grayish rose, the 10p grayish orange, the 20p purplish grey, and the 75p charcoal grey values.

I later learned that the designer Jeffrey Matthews had been chosen by the “powers that be” at the Royal Mail to create a sleeker (narrower) set of numerals. These new numerals were first introduced on 30th March 1983. Each value in turn was reprinted with this new more modern style and later the denominations were also repositioned onto a uniformed grid in the bottom left hand corner. These number changes were completed by 1988 to the whole of the Machin range.

These changes to the numerals gave further reasons for me to concentrate even more into that specific area where even more various subtle differences were also noted. These differences manifested themselves as thicker and/or thinner elements of the figures, their location relative to the “P” for pence and the size and form of the actual serifs on the figures and letters. Of particular note here are the 1p crimson, the 2½p pale magenta, the 7½p pale chestnut,

and the 8p red values. Although the majority of these variances can be seen with the naked eye, once you know what to look for, the use of a good magnifying lens (I use a 10x) can make life a whole lot easier.

The release earlier this year of stamps printed by “Cartor” bearing the “Garamond” font numerals together with additional variations to the 10p & 20p fonts opens up the hunt even further.

### RECOGNIZING VARIATIONS

With a view to alleviating some of the aggravations encountered in collecting Machins each article will attempt to explain/explore a common variation that has caused problems.

**Phosphor Bands and/or Lines** (Commonly known as Tagging in N. America)

The adding of Phosphor Band(s)/Coat to the surface of stamps was to enable the automatic sorting machines, in use by the British Post Office, to determine that the mail was correctly stamped and to sort it according to the paid rate (1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> class). Additional changes to these have since been introduced.

The adding of this phosphor to the stamps is generally conducted by the printing of either one or two surface bands or as an embedded all over coating.

Many of the Phosphor Bands can be readily seen on the front face of the stamp by viewing it directly or at a slight tilted angle from the horizontal against a good light (I prefer daylight). This method allows the light to “bounce” off the surface and the differences caused by the phosphor can be easily seen.

For some types of tagging the use of a UV Light will be required, either short wave for old phosphor or long wave for issues after 1993. There are various degrees of fluorescence and phosphorescence (afterglow).

The majority of bands are either 4mm or 4.75mm wide. The 4.75mm band is the result of a 9.5mm band printed over the perforation between two stamps.

The early Machins had the old “Phosphor B” type of phosphor applied as either a centre band, two side bands, or a single side band in either a green or blue colour. In the mid 1980s a new “Phosphor A” was brought into use. The bands on these stamps fluoresce a little fainter than the previous printings, and are violet in colour.

“C Phosphor” had an additive called cartax mixed with the phosphor ink. This allowed the stamps to fluoresce a yellow green colour when viewed under long wave ultra

violet light. It is also termed AY phosphor by some specialist groups. Early printings of this type were the 18p printed by Enschede in 1991.

Some of the earlier stamps also included a layer of varnish, either 2mm or 4mm wide, under the phosphor. Additional phosphors also include “JET” and “NOVAGLO” and others.

Other easily identifiable types also include those with inset, short and notched bands and are generally from booklet sources.

Different levels of phosphorescence are also to be found in stamps with an embedded coating.

So until next time good luck and happy sorting.

Dave

We are looking for more interested parties to join NAMSG (North American Machin Study Group) and further the quest. Forward any questions or comments please to:

[davemoss@sympatico.ca](mailto:davemoss@sympatico.ca)

## A CHILLY CHOICE COMMERCIAL OR PHILATELIC MAIL?

by John Wilson

A recent and quite fortuitous purchase was the postcard shown below. Not that I care for penguins, but this card bears the ultra-unusual originating mark of the Kerguelen Islands, a French possession close to Antarctica, and in addition it is part of the Poulenc series of “Dear Doctor” cards.



This Montreal-based drug company had the brainwave of sending mass-produced cards to doctors in North America from extraordinary locations, extolling the virtues of newly-marketed drugs. Huge mailings were made, but the individual physician was almost certain to read the blurb. The text was prepared in a personalized handwriting, but in a strong and clear (yet neither feminine nor masculine) hand. I invite the reader to look at the address – the Poulenc company itself – and to compare the writing. The ink is different in colour than the printed message; it looks handwritten. The letters ‘d’ and ‘r’ show close similarity.



So is this particular example philatelic mail? Undoubtedly! But it also had a commercial purpose and this card has personality aplenty. Count me in among those collectors who want to complete the journey suggested here, from pole to pole.

PhilaJournal, Summer 2010 15

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## From Here To Eternity

by Fraser McKee

It was of considerable interest to read the item in the latest PhilaJournal (Spring 2010) under the heading of the North Toronto Stamp Club about "You can't take it with you!" I.e., what to do about your (no doubt very valuable.... at least to you!) collection of stamps as you age. As noted the Club is planning a most useful talk on inventory, insurance, options for disposal, bequest solutions and so forth.

What made it interesting to me was exactly the same discussion held about a year and a half ago by another group of collectors to which I belong. This is the North American branch of the Henty Society. We are collectors and students (*sic!*) of the 100 or so books written by George Alfred Henty between about 1875 and 1908. Older members may recall "With Wolfe in Canada," "One of the 28th," "Under Drake's Flag," "With Clive In India," "In the Reign of Terror" and so forth. All carefully written histories designed mostly for young boys, but enjoyed by many, and good copies with elegant coloured covers. Some 1st editions, like Penny Blacks, are worth in the thousands, many in reasonably good condition several \$100. Hence the interest as to what should be done with this part of one's estate for those who had considerable collections.

We had a most fascinating discussion, the following points being noted: collections should indeed be inventoried in some detail, and insured; while they could just be left for your estate's executors to resolve (often children with no knowledge or interest in the books directly), consideration might be given for donating them, even now, or on one's death, to various libraries or research centers, or to a selection of family members. And even more intriguing, the consensus was that the best idea was to break up collections and distribute them around, in order to "spread the word," to increase the number of people who might thereby become interested. It was felt that any libraries who would be interested in such a donation would probably already have a significant collection of G.A.H.'s works, thus you'd only be contributing in quite a degree to duplication, and thus probably sell-off anyway. And stay away from donations to elegant but closed collections that are not available to a wider public.

Maybe there's a lesson here for stamp collectors... indeed "From here to eternity, and You can't take it with you!"

*Fraser McKee is a member of the West Toronto Stamp Club*



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# MY STAMP COLLECTING

by Joseph C. Inguanez

I am originally from the Island of Malta. You can find Malta as part of Europe in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

I started collecting stamps when I was about nine years old. My father brought a whole bunch of stamps home one day and I soaked them and took them off the paper. I used to buy stamps from a company in England by mail. They would send me a booklet full of stamps and I would pick and choose the ones I liked. Then I would send the rest back to them with a check for the ones that I picked. This did not last too long because I was too young to work and I had no money to keep buying stamps. As you all know you must have some money to buy and collect stamps. So my stamp collecting ended a few years later.

Then, when I was nineteen, I emigrated from Malta and came to Canada. I found a job, raised a family and, in about 1990, I started collecting stamps again. Of course, the ones I collected in Malta, I had left behind and I do not know what happened to them. This time I was fascinated with stamps, so I started a big collection. I collected mainly Canada, United States and Malta, but I liked stamps so much that I also started a collection of the whole world. Whatever stamps I came across, I would collect. This time I had a job so I did not care how much money it cost me. If it is a stamp, I would buy it.

Then I had a rough time in my life and stopped collecting stamps again by 1995, but this time I kept my collection and no matter what happened to me, I would not part with it. Thirteen years later, I was going through my stuff and came across my stamp collection. My interest was stirred again and I decided to continue my collection again. So I went back to my stamp club that I had joined in 1990 and became a member again. Now I buy stamps from the club, eBay, the post office and certain stamp companies. I have got to admit, it can be pretty expensive sometimes but I do not care about that as long as I get my stamps. I have so much sorting to do now that I buy from eBay too, that some of the stamps I received in the mail are still in the envelopes. At the moment I am concentrating on my Canadian collection. I put all the other countries aside except Canada. I bought an expensive album and am putting my Canadian collection in it.

I am happy with my collection of stamps and I will not stop collecting this time. I just have to take it easy for a while and stop buying stamps, to put what I have away.

*Joseph Inguanez is a member of the Bramalea Stamp Club.*

## Certificate of Merit

to Elaine Skinner



At the April meeting of the Scarborough Stamp Club **Peter Butler** (the Past President of both the SSC and GTAPA) presented **Elaine Skinner** with a well deserved Certificate of Merit.

Elaine has recently stepped down from her position on the GTAPA Board of directors, a post that she has occupied since the beginning of the GTAPA (originally representing the East York Stamp Club). She was an active member of the show committee for each of the five national shows run to date and was involved in all other aspects of the GTAPA organization.

Thank you Elaine.

### GTAPA AFFILIATIONS

**Royal Philatelic Society of Canada**

*Affiliate #4*

**American Philatelic Society**

*Associate Membership number C 208899*

**American Topical Association**

*Chapter 109*

## New Study Group

On Sunday, September 5 at the BNAPS Vancouver Convention, a study group will convene to discuss "Canadian postal ephemera and philatelic collaterals." Now some of you may well say, "What the heck is that?" I'm glad you asked.

We like to think of this field as "stamp history." It's everything to do with the release and promotion of stamps including lobby posters, news bulletins (what used to be called PS 14's), Details and Collections, launch covers and ephemera related to all of the above including press releases, speaker's notes and even photographs of launches.



On March 1st, 1947, the Department will issue a special 4-cent postage stamp to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Alexander Graham Bell. The stamp depicts a winged figure of Fame crowning the effigy of Alexander Graham Bell in the light of his contributions to the advancement of science and the welfare of mankind. The achievements of Alexander Graham Bell are so well known as scarcely to need mention, and it is as a world figure and benefactor of humanity at large that the Canadian stamp commemorates his long and memorable career. He loved Canada and spent much of his time here, and it was in this country that he worked out many of his theories, particularly those relating to the electrical transmission of sound and aeroplanes.

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We are a small but hardly lot who will be meeting for the first time in Vancouver and we'd like you to all come along and join us. We'll be talking about our diverse interests, the gaps in our collections, and ways that we can encourage more interest in the field as well as trading. I'll be showing one of my prized possessions, Post Office Department Order Number 2, issued in 1868. We're hoping others will bring along their own show and tell items. If interested, or you want additional info, please write me at: [shibumi.management@gmail.com](mailto:shibumi.management@gmail.com)

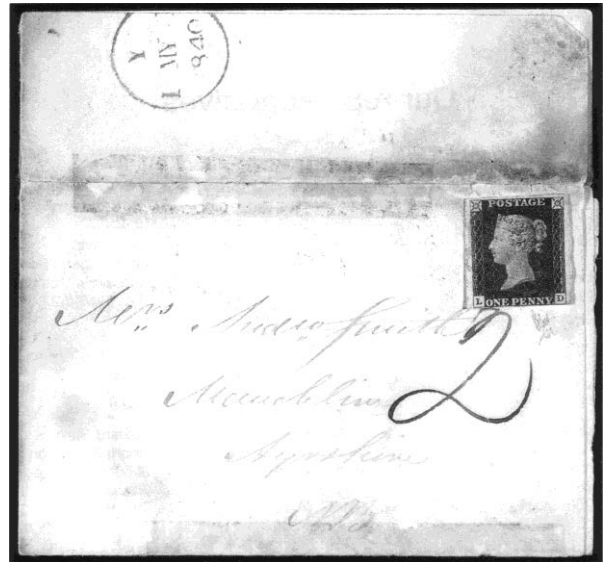
David G. Jones, Ottawa. RPSC, BNAPS, OPS, NSSC

## The World's Earliest Recorded Cover

### Bearing A Stamp

by Peter Butler, FRPSC

All stamp collectors know stories about the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black. Here is one I hadn't heard, perhaps it is new to you also. The cover illustrated below was scanned from a flyer I found in a well-worn philatelic journal that I picked up at an auction recently. I had never thought that there was such a thing as a first day cover for the first stamp. This cover can certainly be considered for that label.



Recently confirmed by several well-respected expertizing agencies from around the world, this cover is authentic. The Penny Blacks were available from post offices in England on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1840, though it was not valid for payment of postage until May 6<sup>th</sup> 1840. The 1d Penny Black lettered LD (bottom corners of the stamp) was from Plate 1a. On the back fold of the letter can be clearly seen, a cancellation dated May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1840 and there is a red, Maltese Cross cancellation applied to the stamp and cover (It's difficult to see in this picture.) Since the stamp was not to be used until May 6<sup>th</sup>, the letter was taxed, indicated by the large "2" for the 2d to be paid, 1d for postage plus a 1d fine to be paid by the recipient, for posting the letter before the allowed date.

The stamp has been removed from the envelope for examination only and re-hinged in place. The item is "unique" - being the only known "use" of the world's first stamp on the first day it could have been purchased.

# TOONIE ADS, The GTAPA Market Place

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[vijaystamps@gmail.com](mailto:vijaystamps@gmail.com)

Since 2000, the United Nations has issued World Heritage prestige booklets. Ten have been issued and I am missing the booklets from 2001 and 2008. I will buy or trade for these two booklets. I have many duplicates of the UN prestige booklets and the Great Britain prestige booklets to exchange. Contact Peter Butler at: [pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com) or 416-690-4666.

I collect the picture postage stamps that are printed by Canadian Banknote Co. Ltd. for Canada Post. I am interested in trading or buying these stamps particularly ones used by stamp clubs for their exhibitions. I also would like to trade or buy copies of picture postage stamps of personal photos, special family events, pets, scenery, etc. Contact Peter Butler at: [pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com) or 416-690-4666.

Attention *PERFIN* specialists. I am looking for an OHMS perfin of the five hole variety, on the RCMP stamp of 1935. Scott #223. Also copies of this stamp with steel engraved, constant plate varieties would be welcome. I will pay top dollar for these stamps. Contact Peter Butler at: [pbutler@ilap.com](mailto:pbutler@ilap.com) or 416-690-4666.

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## WANTED

Scottish & British Local Stamps  
call Larry at 905-723-8798

## Oshawa/Whitby

wishes to thank all who attended and helped make our  
Spring Auction a huge success.

WANTED... collectibles (stamps, covers, ephemera, etc...) about Frédéric Chopin (22 Feb. 1810 – 17 Oct. 1849), a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist. Born in Żelazowa Wola, in the Duchy of Warsaw, to a French-expatriate father and Polish mother. He lived and died in Paris as one of the many Poles in a politico-social self-exile during the Polish partition. Email: [polwiz@gmail.com](mailto:polwiz@gmail.com) or 905-279-3596

WANTED... STAMPS, COVERS, MAXICARDS CELEBRATING THE CHINESE YEAR OF THE DOG (1994 plus other years if also picturing a dog); YEAR OF THE ROOSTER (1993)... DOGS including Disney characters... from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) 191 member countries. Email: [polwiz@gmail.com](mailto:polwiz@gmail.com) or 905-279-3596

## WANTED

### Postal Covers

with clear "BOMBAY" Cancellations  
from India between 1885 and 1914  
"SEA POST OFFICE"

to international destinations only  
"TRAVELLING POST OFFICE"  
(used on North East Line only)

&

### Stamps

Government of India  
Telegraph Stamps – 1881 Provisionals  
For 1, 3 & 4 Anna Only  
(like image shown below)



### Contact

Denzil by e-mail at [fernandes11@rogers.com](mailto:fernandes11@rogers.com)

## Philatelic Dictionary

**Die Proof:** A trial printing of a postage stamp from an engraved die. Engravers make proofs of the dies they are working on to study their own progress.

**Plate Proof:** Proofs from a finished printing plate from any method of printing.

*From the Musson Stamp Dictionary by Douglas & Mary Patrick*

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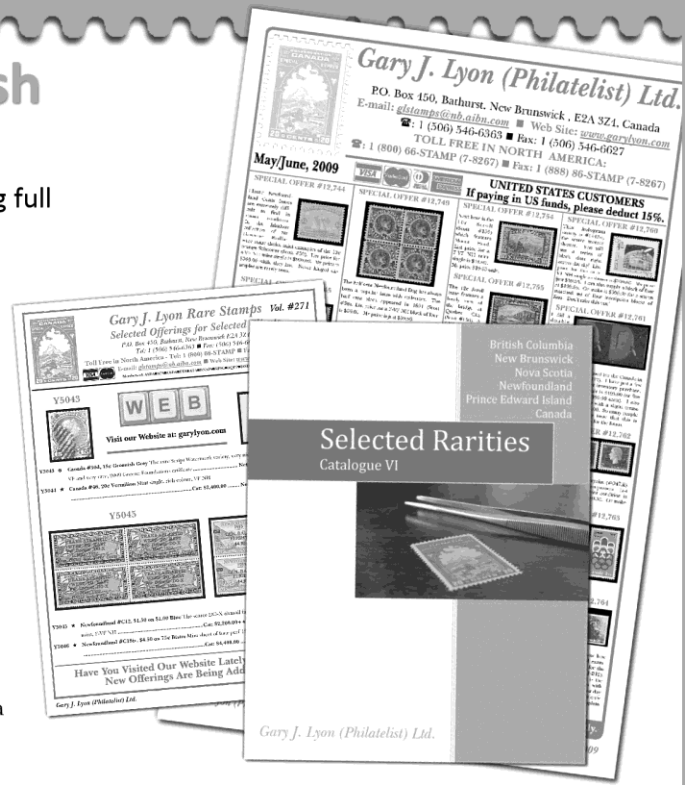
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## Collect Canada and British North America?

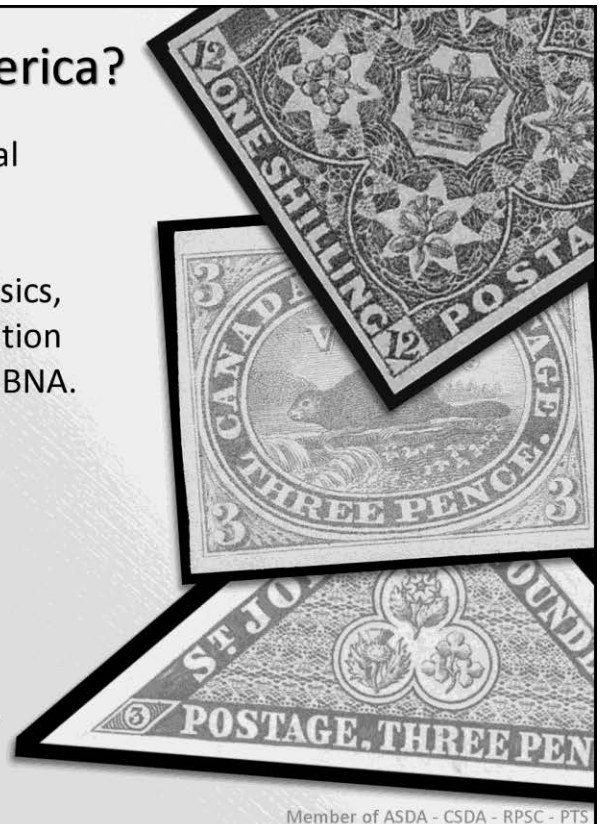
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