

PhilaJournal

The Official Publication of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance
Volume IX • Number 2 • Whole Number 34 • Winter 2010 • ISSN 1718-2387

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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

Editorial Changes

by Garfield Portch, FRPSC

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance it is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of a new editor for PhilaJournal.

Beginning with the next (Winter, 2011) issue, **Susan Butler** will assume the editorial responsibility.

Susan, as many of you know, is married to **Peter Butler**, the Secretary and Past President of the GTAPA. Consequently, Susan is well aware of the aims, objectives and principles of the Alliance. Susan brings a wide range of skills to the position that, I am sure, will have a profound impact on PhilaJournal.

I am personally delighted that Susan has relieved me of the Editor's job, but I do commit to assist in any way possible and will now turn to writing a regular column for PhilaJournal.

At the October meeting of the Directors, I was pleased, not only about the new editor, to accept a beautifully framed certificate recognizing the Gold Medal awarded to PhilaJournal in the 2009 APS Chapter Newsletter Competition. Thank you to all who contributed to make PhilaJournal the success that it is.



Tom Malicki, Garfield Portch and Larry Friend

photo by Peter Butler

ANGELS

a great source of inspiration for artists, writers and composers throughout history

The word angel derives from the Greek word *angelos* meaning “messenger.” Delivering important messages is one of the chief tasks of angels as they are intermediaries between God and humanity. They are also guardians and caretakers who watch over people at all times, music makers who sing praises to God and carry out the tasks he gives to them for people on earth. Their work has often been the inspiration for designers of Christmas stamps around the world.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing,
 Glory to the new-born King,
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled.
 Joyful, all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies,
 With the angelic host proclaim,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Mendelssohn 1809-1847



The artwork for these Isle of Man die-cut, self-adhesive stamps of 2007, was created by Julia Ashby Smyth.



Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story,
 Now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship Christ, the new-born King.
Montgomery 1771-1854

Royal Mail's 1975 Christmas Angels with harp, lute, mandolin, horn and trumpet, praising God.



a Choir of Angels on some of the world's most beautiful Christmas stamps

A Christmas single page exhibit by Peter Butler

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.

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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)

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

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THE EDITOR'S SPACE

Last month I asked "Has *PhilaJournal* run its course?" I am delighted to report that the feedback indicates that *PhilaJournal* is critical to the well-being of GTAPA and should be maintained at all costs.

With the blessing of the Board of Directors, we have a new editor who has been given the mandate to make a number of changes to *PhilaJournal*. Additionally, the Board approved an increase in the annual club dues to help maintain a working cash reserve. These are positive indicators that prove the support of the membership in general.

Thanks to **Susan Butler**, I will now be able to get on with a number of philatelic projects that have been gathering in my "Things To Do" file. I urge our readers to commit to provide Susan with lots of regular submissions that will allow her to spend her time editing.

Before I head off to the printers, I want to take this opportunity to thank the crew at **Nova Printing**. These print professionals were incredibly helpful in meeting every critical deadline and producing a great journal. Their recommendations and efforts have played a major role in our success story.

Best wishes to all for a safe, happy and healthy Holiday Season. Keep up the great work in 2012.

Thank you.

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 7th of February, 2011.

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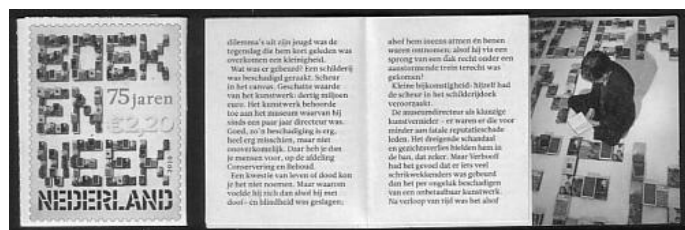
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Unusual Postage Stamps

by Jerry Piotrowski

On March 9th of this year The Netherlands issued a stamp commemorating the 75th year of book week. In keeping with the theme of books the 3cm by 4cm stamp actually opened up as an eight page book. A 500 word story was printed on the pages. The 2.20 Euro stamp is sufficient for actually mailing a real book.



Several countries have printed stamps on flocked paper thus giving texture to the stamps. Among them is Russia which in 2003 issued a stamp showing a bearded St. Nicholas (Scott 6801). Two Croatian stamps issued May 9 2008 (Scott 687/8) also have texture. The 3.50HRK value

depicts an insured envelope with a wax seal on the back flap. The wax seal is reproduced by using thermographic printing, a process in which heat is used to melt powdered ink onto the surface of the paper resulting in a raised effect. The 5.00HRK value depicts an air-mail envelope with an embossed airplane.



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, L6S 1H8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Larry Friend

Time for growth!

This is an exciting time of year!

Now that clubs have resumed fall schedules and with Auctions, Club Bourses and shows abound, also with Christmas around the corner, what a better time to obtain that coveted stamp for your collection.

Perhaps its time, to drop the hint to family and friends, your need for that mint Bluenose or set of stamps that would help complete a collection.

The auctions also offer an opportunity to pick up a starter collection to broaden your collecting interests, perhaps a country you have visited or a country that will enhance your existing collecting interests. Why not a start a topical collection?

It is a shame to sit on an existing collection waiting for new issues when you can be fully immersed in a new area of collecting. Many topical and traditional collections can be started for very few dollars; as well many stamps for that new interest can be obtained for pennies. The opportunities are endless!

Enjoy our glorious hobby, expand your interests and grow your collection!

Happy stamping.

Larry

JOHN L. RUDNICKI

*Dealer in Fine Stamps
Member of ATA & APS*

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WORTH REVISITING

by Larry Friend

CLUB AUCTIONS

This issue of the PhilaJournal will coincide with Oshawa/Whitby's 8th club auction (Nov. 7th) - all have been a resounding success - moving 350 to 400 lots of stamps in each auction.

The numbers really do not matter, what is important is moving unwanted stamps to other hungry collectors who consider them treasures and a welcome addition to their collections.

What is important, each of our auctions have contained in whole or part collections of members of our club who, for whatever reason, do not want to continue collecting those particular countries or stamps anymore.

In some cases the member has passed on and the family has asked our help disbursing the collection to other collectors. In other cases, collectors in the community at large have contacted us to help them with similar goals. Our hand out flyers, mention and offer this service as does our web site.

Collectors and families have the satisfaction and peace of mind that there collections will likely end up in the hands of friends and other club members.

The November 7th auction contained at least all or part of eight (8) collections from these sources.

Prior to a collection being entered in one of our auctions, one of our selected members will visit the family or stamp collectors home to go over our service and offer advise how best to auction off the collection. In many cases we can also give an approximate value. We also invite the family to come and watch the auction. The only fee for this service is a .50 cent a lot fee.

It is our hope that all club members have made arrangements when their collection is no longer wanted. Trust you have made similar arrangements.

GTAPA CLUB DIRECTORY

Ajax Philatelic Society

RPSC Chapter #163

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 pm to 9 pm.
Ajax Public Library on Harwood Road South (south of the 401).
There is plenty of *free parking* and wheelchair accessibility

Contact

Don Beaumont

905-426-3612

donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com

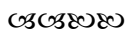
Ron Christie

905-432-7628

ronaldchristie@rogers.com

David Goreski

905-579-3349



Bramalea Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #144

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.

Contact

Bob Thorne, FRPSC

905-792-3526

r.thorne@sympatico.ca

web site

www.bramaleastampclub.com



East Toronto Stamp Club

Meets at Stan Wadlow Senior's Action Centre on Cedarvale Ave., (Woodbine & Cosburn area) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, October to May, at 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Contact

Doug Cockburn

416-757-4072

Insurance & Banking

Philatelic Society

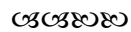
RPSC Chapter #82

Meets on the 3rd Thursday each month at Hampton Securities, 141 Adelaide Street West.

Contact

Joe Janthur

416-364-4112



North Toronto

Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #5

Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month except July, August and December at the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1858 Yonge Street, just a short walk north of the St. Clair TTC subway station.
Members begin arriving between 6:30 and 7:00pm

Contact

Leon Matthys

647-505-8461

ntscpresident@gmail.com

Peter Butler, FRPSC

416-690-4666

pbutler@ilap.com

web site

<http://NorthTorontoStampClub.TK>



North York

Philatelic Society

RPSC Chapter #21

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).

Contact

Mike Turk

905-731-8380

turkm@accessv.com

Oshawa/Whitby

Stamp Groups

RPSC Chapter #230

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 10:45 am to 12:45 pm 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.

Contact

Whitby/Oshawa

Jim Stevenson

905-576-4449

Oshawa

Lawrence Worrall

905-436-9034

Oshawa/Ajax

Ron Christie

905-432-7628

Ajax/Whitby/Oshawa

Don Beaumont

905-426-3612

Oshawa/Whitby

Larry Friend

905-723-8798 lfriend@sympatico.ca



Visit the
GTAPA Web Site
for an up-to-date
calendar of
coming events

www.gtapa.org

***Polish-Canadian
Coin and Stamp Club
"Troyak"***

Meets on the last Sunday of each month, except holidays, at 4:30 pm at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. , Mississauga, Ontario.

An English speaking meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm at the Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, (Hwy 427 and Burnhamthorpe), Toronto.

Contact

Wieslaw Grzesicki
416-258-1651

Web site

www.troyakclub.com

General email info@troyakclub.com



***Scouts On Stamps
Society International***

Maple Leaf Chapter, SOSSI

Meets on the third Sunday of the 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 schedule for 2011 is: March 20 Kitchener, Scout House; April 17 Hamilton, Scout House; May 15 Niagara Falls, Scout House.

Contact

Tony Manson
416-447-4281

tony.manson@sympatico.ca.



Season's Greetings

*May your holiday season be
healthy, happy and safe*

***Toronto
Stamp Collectors' Club***

Founded 1892

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month except July and August
7 p.m. at the Albany Club

91 King Street East
Toronto

located 2 short blocks east of King Subway Station. Surface lot parking available immediately to the south.

Contact

Owen White
416-481-4731

owen.white@sympatico.ca



Scarborough Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #223

Meets in Rooms #1 & 2 in the Cedarbrook Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month except December.

Contact

Doug Cockburn
416-757-4072



Ukrainian Collectibles

Society (Toronto)

RPSC Chapter #228

*Chapter of the Ukrainian Philatelic
and Numismatic Society*

Meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 7 pm at the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, 2445 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

Contact

Jerry Kalyn
416-251-6898
ucst@upns.org



***West Toronto
Stamp Club***

RPSC Chapter #14

APS Chapter #174151

Meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays from September to June at Fairfield Senior Centre, 60 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday feature a return to our Discussion Groups and begin at 7:30 pm

Contact

Frank Alusio, FRPSC
416-621-8232 falusio@sympatico.ca

Discussion Group

Garfield Portch, FRPSC

416-239-0623

gportch@ca.inter.net

Web site

www.westtorontostampclub.org



Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club

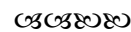
Annual Dinner

Tuesday 14th December, 2010
7 p.m.

Albany Club, 91 King St. East
(at Church St.)

Reservations to:

Owen White: 416-481-4731 or
Joe Janthur: 416-364-4112
Fax: 416-364-4074



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American Topical Association
Chapter #109



A WELL KEPT

secret?

Some may say so, but why not find out what other members of the GTAPA have discovered? We hold regular stamp auctions that cover the world. If you are looking for a single stamp or a box full, a specific set or cover, that special item or an entire collection you may find it in one of our auctions. With hundreds of lots each year in all sizes and price ranges, each sale has *something for everyone!*

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PICTURE POSTAGE



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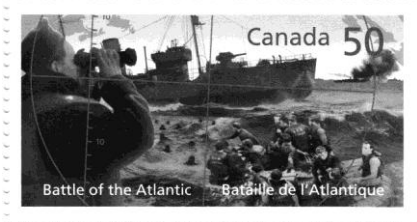
Picture Postage™ stamps are real stamps and can be used to send cards and letters from anywhere in Canada. Now you can use Picture Postage™ the same way you would use any other stamp! Picture Postage™ stamps are valued at the current domestic rate. This means that one Picture Postage™ stamp gets any standard-size envelope (up to 30 grams) delivered anywhere in Canada. If you wish to send an oversized letter or package – or **send mail to the United States or internationally, you'll need to include additional postage.** Ask at your local Post Office or visit the Canada Post website for more information on rates and delivery standards.

Topicals: Easy and Hard

by Fraser McKee

Collecting topical subject stamps can be either easy, plentiful and inexpensive, or difficult and at least hard to fulfill. The easy ones are those with a large following, usually several useful web sites accessible by computer, and even catalogues. The harder ones are those not readily categorized, few other collectors, and no web sites. I have a couple of selections of both - a work in progress to say the least.

Many many years ago, due to an outside interest in matters naval and maritime, I acquired (as different from a concentration on collecting!) quite an extensive collection of maritime stamps. All countries; ships from ancient Egypt to the latest nuclear-powered; battleships to canoes and surf boards; sailors and sea explorers; naval battles,



ship-building, fish, lighthouses, canals and so forth; singles, sets, used and unused. Then about 5 years ago I realized this was ridiculous - I'd never complete anything worth the title of a collection. So "Topical" was the obvious choice, making at least some use of what I already had.



The easiest one was lighthouses. Many collectors, dealers even with stock books with them, several large web sites (one of the most useful, including stamp photos is the German <http://www.leuchttürm-welt.net> and click *Briefmarken*), and even Societies, in particular the American Lighthouse Stamp Society with its own quarterly magazine. Going over these sites informs one what is available, thus allowing the collector to set some goals - even restrictions. Another topic was submarines, because I'd served in a couple. Here there are fewer collectors or sites, but at least most dealers have a "Ships" category through which to search, the selection is much smaller and

thus easier to aim at completing, and the subject usually readily identifiable. The same for another category, naval aircraft. Again "Aircraft" stock books are readily available and searchable. None of these categories tend to be expensive except for the odd variation, and in the latter two no stamps before about 1900. It certainly helps to know something of the subject as well, so that one can identify peculiarities in particular stamps found in "miscellaneous" offerings, sorting the wheat from the chaff.

Another main topic has proven much more difficult - no "Societies," no specific web sites or stock books, and co-collectors rare. This was stamps involving Vice-Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson (1758-1805), the Battle of Trafalgar and its opponents (French and Spanish), the ships and personnel involved, and his life. One problem that arose was that the largest selection of related stamps appeared in 2005, the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar - over 260 stamps in that year alone, scattered across the world, including from such unlikely maritime nations as Lesotho and Guinea! Here the difficulty is that most dealers don't handle anything as current as 2005. And before that, even in 1905, there are very few "Nelsonian" stamps. But then that's the fun of collection, for it gives you the chance to go through files looking for that elusive Scott's listing, finding the odd one and usually not costly, so you can spend an afternoon at a fair and spend little. Days are spent scouring Scott's catalogues in detail, looking for catch words or categories, especially where there are not illustrations of every stamp in a set. It is really the only way.

I have found having stamp topics in both the easy and difficult categories is best, as it avoids the frustrations of finding nothing in a day's work at a fair, and yet offers the elation of locating that single filler for a hole in a series. Also I have listed all my "wants" by country, year and then topic, for that is the way most dealers and those offering stamps sort their supply. The collections are expandable into related stamps: for submarines - research and tourist submersibles, and Jules Verne's fictional "Nautilus" can be included (as I have) or only naval submarines. Nelson's boyhood, or only his naval career leading to Trafalgar. It keeps me out of the pool halls, and I learn a lot! Who knew that Estonia had a submarine at one stage - and on a stamp too - "Lembit"?

Fraser McKee is a member of the West Toronto Stamp Club and a long time Naval Reservist.

The
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BNAPS – *The Society for Canadian Philately*

The MACHIN Corner

by Dave Moss

Early last year, 2009, saw even more changes to the basic Machin stamps issued, the addition of two new security features. These were

- a wavy “ROYAL MAIL” pattern in the background behind her majesty’s portrait. This was printed in an iridescent ink to help prevent easy copying of the designs.
- a pair of double “U” shaped slits. This was designed to damage the stamp during removal to prevent its re-use had it missed being franked during use.

Initially there were ten self adhesive stamps affected, the 1st and 2nd standard sized Non-Value Indicated (NVI), the 1st and 2nd large sized (NVI) and the high values definitives (50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3, £5).

Soon after their release a “Hidden Code” was discovered immediately above the queen’s diadem. This was Royal Mail’s way of determining from where the stamps had originated - business sheets, booklets or rolls.

These Hidden Codes included:

B replacing A in Royal - ROYBL MAIL - in business sheets (Large 1st and 2nd)

B replacing A in Mail - ROYAL MBIL - in business sheets (std 1st and 2nd)

C replacing A in Mail - ROYAL MCIL - in mixed booklets (“C” is for custom)

F replacing R in Royal - FOYAL MAIL - in booklets (large 1st and 2nd)

S replacing A in Mail - ROYAL MSIL - in booklets (std 1st and 2nd)

T replacing A in Mail - ROYAL MTIL - in booklets (std 1st and 2nd)

R replacing A in Mail - ROYAL MRIL - in rolls of 10,000 (std 1st and 2nd)

Two distinct types of slits were also discovered those with a slit break and those without a slit break.

By the end of the year two other stamps were also added to this group those for use on “Recorded and Signed For” mail.

With these coded variations, the different slit types and the regular scheduled issues there are now an additional 40+ stamps to add to the increasing list of Machins.

So far in 2010, in addition to the regularly scheduled issues there has been yet another discovery, that of a year code within the printed background yet again. This affects the 1st and 2nd regular sized Non-Value Indicated (NVI), the 1st and 2nd large sized (NVI) and the 50p.

However, not all the security issued stamps are affected, only 11. Just what will the future hold is anyone’s guess?

Royal Mail’s future plans have not been released but just how far are they going to expand this new and exciting group is yet to be determined.

Recognizing Variations

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

Changes from Sterling to Decimal Coinage

Because the original sterling (£.s.d.) was not easily understood by North Americans I have taken it upon myself to give a rundown on the system its value and its interaction with the Decimal coinage that replaced it.

Prior to 1971 all Great British money was in Pounds, Shillings and Pence.

12 pennies(d) = 1 shilling; 20 shillings(s) = 1 pound (£)

The coins of the realm were as follows:

Den	Explanation	Equiv value	Equiv value \$ (1971)
¼d	One farthing	-	
½d	One half penny	-	
1d	One penny	-	
3d	Three pence	-	\$0.05
6d	Six Pence (A tanner)	2.5 new pence	\$0.10
1/-	One shilling (A bob)	5 new pence	\$0.20
2/-	Two shillings (Two bob)	10 new pence	\$0.40
2/6	Two shillings & six pence (Half a Crown)	-	\$0.50
5/-	Five shillings (Crown)	20 new pence	\$1.00
10/-	Ten shillings	50 new pence	\$2.00
£1	One pound	One pound	\$4.00

Fortunately the value of the pound did not change during this transition, however, there were two versions of the first Machin black £1 stamp issued. These vary in the way the horizontal line connects to the vertical, the earlier stamp has a loop at the corner the later has none as indicated.



So until next time good luck and happy sorting.

Dave

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.

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).

Further information on the MSCC may be obtained from club members
Shirley Griff (shirley@griffrealestate.com) or
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**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION OF
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youth table, refreshments, free admission.

Terry Miller Recreation Centre / Judith Nyman
Secondary School is located at the south
west corner of Bramalea Road and
Williams Pkwy.

ACRONYM SOUP

by John Wilson

When I was young and impressionable – hold your editorial comments, folks! – there was a British comedy routine about two military chaps having a conversation filled entirely with initials. The cover illustrated here makes it rather clear why such a two-handed conversation was eminently susceptible to parody.



The cover was sent from Field Post Office 616, at Atkinson Air Field in British Guiana, in October of 1958. It was sent at the concessionary rate (military mail could be paid at seamail rates but be sent airmail) and the envelope bears the crest of the Worcester Regiment, which had been sent to the country as a result of interethnic tensions and the suspension of the Constitution. But what was the alphabet soup of penciled markings?

Evidently the War Office was organized into neat compartments, and B.F.P.O. 9 (the name of the battle group stationed in British Guiana from 1953 until after independence was granted in 1966) reported to internal section MT II. Thus the officer reporting back to his Major addressed his letter to MT II, the section he had been told to correspond with. This was subsequently amended in pen to the oh-so-entertaining M (TEA) II on the left of the cover. Someone else – “We are not amused” – then crossed out the offending humour and scribed it properly at the top of the envelope. Alas, this did not get through – and to redirect it to its proper section, M. T. 1 (a), someone from MT 3 was called on to initial and forward the letter. One is reminded of Captain Blackadder, valiantly helping along the war effort by moving his desk six inches closer to Berlin.

It is rare that a good item of postal history gives me a laugh to boot. Military mail from British Guiana is quite difficult to find, despite the long years units were stationed there; I have only one other envelope, from 1966. Perhaps someone with a military background, or a dedicated collector of Forces’ Mail, can illuminate me as to the corridors of power in Whitehall in the 1950’s.

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Postal Regulations for Displaced Persons in the American Zone

by Robert Pinet

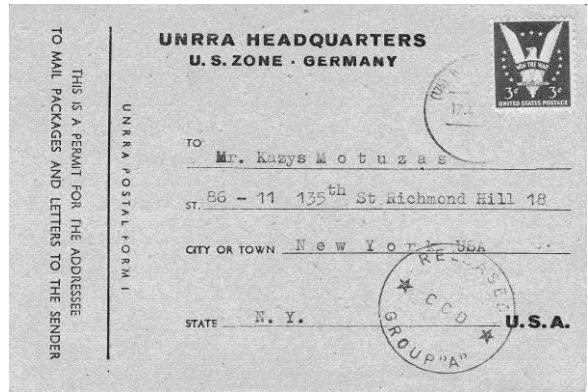
Estimates of the number of displaced persons in Europe at the end of the Second World War range from 11 to 20 million. The majority were former inmates of Nazi concentration, labour camps, and prisoner-of-war camps freed by the Allies. In Eastern Europe, both civilians and military fled advancing Soviet forces.¹ To stabilize the confusion, all refugees were required to stay in place as settlement areas were established with the help of the Red Cross. On October 1, 1945, responsibility shifted to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRAA) and, later, the International Refugee Organization (IRO).

On October 20, 1946, UNRAA (which the Soviet Union never joined) inaugurated a postal system for 6 million displaced persons in Germany to communicate with their home countries. Towards the end of the war, both the International Red Cross (in 1944) and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) (in 1945), had issued cards to be used by DPs to notify others of their safety and location. As Chris Kulpinski writes in *Polish Displaced Persons in Germany (1945-48)*:

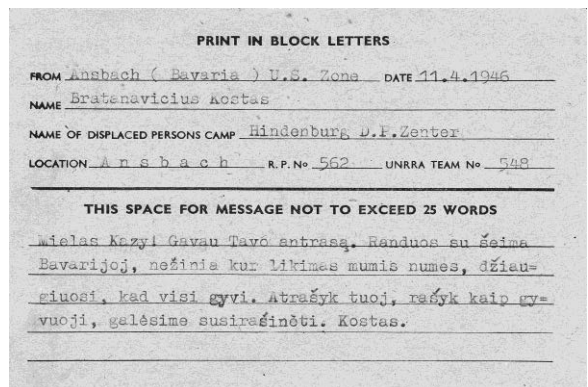
On November 5, 1945, UNRRA issued its own card for communications with friends and relatives. The card is generally known as UNRRA Postal Form 1 and required a 3 cent stamp. Message was not to exceed 25 words. Displaced persons were each given 5 cards and 5 three cent stamps each. Service was established on November 26th to the United States only. This card was also discontinued on March 29th, 1946, but was the basis of establishing communications between "United Nations Displaced Persons" and the United States. (p. 7)

The UNRRA form was required as proof by U.S. postmasters for persons in the U.S. to send letters and parcels abroad. After initial contact, DPs were permitted to mail not more than 1 letter per week of not more than two sheets of paper. Writing was permitted on one side only.

U.S. postage stamps were provided by UNRRA to all UNRRA teams. For initial contact, only U.S. postage stamps were to be used on the UNRRA Form 1. After initial contact, only Military Government stamps were to be used. Regular International postage rates applied – 15 Rpf for cards, 25 Rpf for letter under 20 grams, and 15 Rpf for each 20 grams thereafter².



The card above, dated November 4, 1946, was addressed to Mr. Kazys Motuzas of New York City and bears a 3c "Win the War" definitive, postmarked with a faint American Post Office 136 cancel and "Released/ CCD/ Group A" marking.



The reverse reveals that the card is from Kostas Bratanavicius in Hidenberg D.P. Camp, near Ansbach, Germany. Hidenberg Camp was home to 3,000 people, primarily Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian. It was run by UNRRA team 548, under the direction of Mr. Roland, whose work was the subject of an interesting article in a local newspaper, the *Franische Landeszeitung*, of September 21, 1946³.

I have tried to translate Mr. Bratanavicius's message, using a translation website, but with little success. I am left with an intriguing series of words, but no complete sentences. I would be indebted to any *PhilaJournal* member who could contact me to help with this.

¹ DP Camps following World War II. Wikipedia. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Displaced_Persons_camp)

² Kupinski, 3rd Edition, 2005, p.8.

³ See link under Hindeburg, Ansbach, Bavaria, DP Camps in Germany, <http://www.dpcamps.org/dpcampsGermanyHi.html>

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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 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 or 4126-690-4666.

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 or 416-690-4666.

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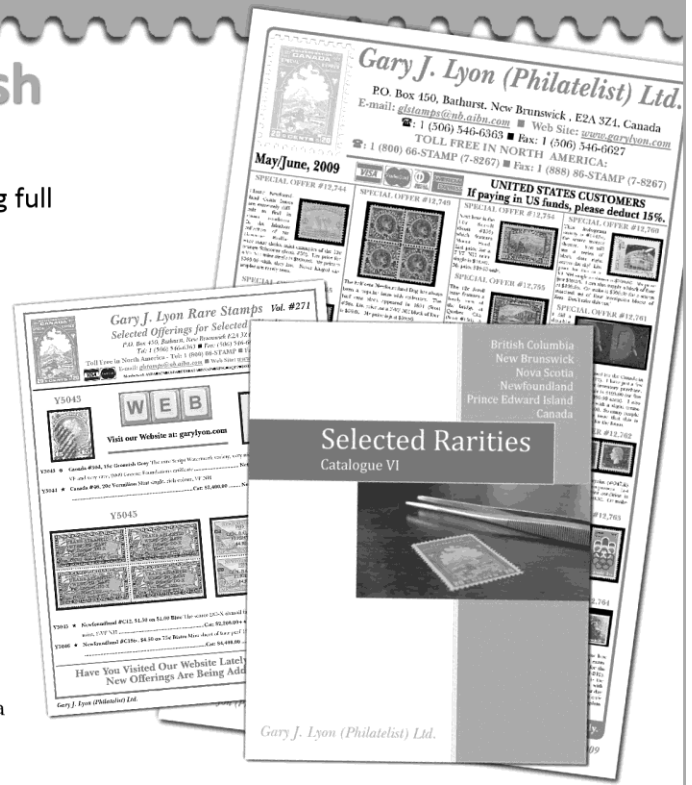
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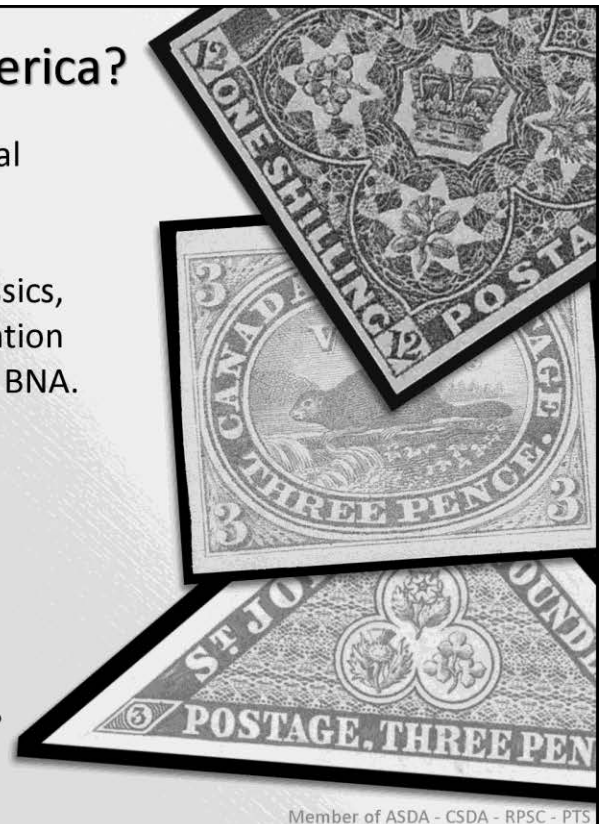
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