

PhilaJournal

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Fall 2012

Volume XI Number 1 Whole Number 41 ISSN 1718-2387

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Welcome to Fall 2012 *PhilaJournal*

Volume XI Number 1 Whole Number 41 ISSN 1718-2387

The *PhilaJournal* is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to members of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance stamp clubs to provide readers with news and information on philately with emphasis on the GTAPA membership and area clubs.

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MEETINGS

Directors meet monthly on the fourth Wednesday at the
Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto

Visitors are welcome!

The Interim Editor's Input

Tom Malicki

tom.malicki@gmail.com

My shot at the Editor's job

Hello, as the new philatelic season starts I hope you will find this Fall issue enjoyable and educational. It is packed with interesting and advanced information about our hobby. Frankly, I do not think there is any other **free** publication that can match it.

Special feature in this issue is an article from Garfield Portch, FRPSC describing the new Video Spectral Comparator machine residing at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. It is only one of three that are being used for the forensic analysis of stamps and other philatelic materials. GTAPA meets at this location... so here is just another reason for dropping in on one of our meetings. I have seen Garfield give personal tours of this amazing tool.

In the last issue we featured an exhibit on display in the departures lobby at the Toronto's Pearson Airport. In June I was fortunate to be on an international flight and got to see it all in person. It is absolutely amazing.

Our regular Contributors have done an outstaying job and once again proved that they are truly SMEs (Subject Matter Experts) in their fields. Without their dedication there would be no *PhilaJournal*. GTAPA members are grateful to you all.

But please remember as you are reading this issue that there is never enough material and all contributions are very welcome. Even one article per year will add to the variety and may encourage your fellow collectors to write on the topics they are passionate about. More articles will also bring in more advertisers and as the treasurer for GTAPA that makes me very happy. Enjoy the Fall issue!!!

Our cover.....

From "What's New at the Greene Foundation?" article here is the full colour negative picture revealing the hidden repair. Awesome!

**Please contact Tom Malicki with changes, updates or
corrections about your club.**

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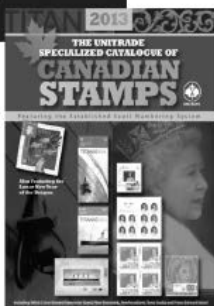
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The President's Viewpoint

Larry Friend

lfriend@sympatico.ca

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Now that the summer has passed and your garden and flowers grew, prospering in our wonderful sunny summer – did your collection prosper and grow?

Will you be taking advantage of the many fall shows and sales in your surrounding area?

The eastern region is well represented with the Oshawa, Brooklin, Trenton and Cobourg Show and Sales (see PhilaJournal ads of the Trenton, Oshawa and Brooklin auctions, sales and shows). Look to the GTAPA web calendar for full info of the shows listed. The CSDA weekend is also fast approaching. Please check the Grand News for their many upcoming events or their website www.grvpa.com.

Be sure to look at the individual websites of our GTAPA members – there could be an event you may wish to attend, if you had full information regarding the event.

May I remind you and your club to take full advantage of listing your club events on the GTAPA website calendar?

It may seem a distance to attend a show out of your immediate area, but most of the surrounding GTA show and sales take little more than an hour travel time to have a full day to enjoy while enhancing your collection. Is there a more pleasant time to travel with fall colours and less congested highways?

Many clubs retained their regular meeting schedule and did not close for the summer – some reported good membership turn out – and more importantly picked up new members as a result of the clubs increased visibility.

A few clubs are now incorporating silent or voice auction each meeting. Along with advertising, these auctions have also resulted in increased attendance along with new membership growth. GREAT!

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St Clair station. Free Parking at church is limited -City Parking (Green P)
is available on Alvin Ave. - 1 block east, for which there is a charge

The Machin Corner No. 11

Hello again.

I was recently asked how I came to the decision to collect Machins and what made me collect the way that I did. For years I have been amassing large quantities of British stamps of which Machins form but a small amount. With a career background that involved the inspection of product for a living, it must have been inevitable that things I learned in my career be transposed into my most favourite hobby. Thus when confronted with a large quantity of the same product, it is far easier to lay them all out and make comparisons from one to another and it is surprising just how easy it is to determine when one is different from all the others. So it is the same with stamps, they are after all just another form of product.

I personally have found that regular sized Machins, they measure 20mm x 24mm, can be mounted 90 stamps to a page and this enables the sheets to be handled and viewed quite readily. Using regular sheets of paper for mounting (8½" x 11"), the larger sizes need to be mounted in quantities of 36 and 42. Any other stamps may also be viewed in a similar way for colour variations or deviations from the norm. The stamps are sorted by denomination and colour, then by printing method (photogravure or lithography) and finally by phosphor bands (one, two or all over). Only stamps of the same finding are then mounted on a page.

Once a page has been fully completed, say the 20p Purplish Grey, printed in Lithography with an allover phosphor the search can then take place for whatever elusive deviation is known to exist, in this case the original versus the redrawn and narrower value. When compared side by side the difference is quite outstanding. The finest examples can then be removed and mounted in an album prepared to exhibit and demonstrate the differences. Reaching this point has proven to be a rather demanding exercise, one that also seems never ending.

Because the release of Machins continues and will do so as long as her Majesty remains on the throne, a collector needs to decide between collecting a "closed" or an "open" group of Machins.

The open group can range from one of all Machins to any group that is still being issued and these will change from year to year while a "closed" group means one where there will be no more issues. For example the Pre-

-Decimal issues and those of decimal stamps with a face value ending in a halfpenny. These closed groups are easier to plan-for as the extent of their range is already known, whereas the open groups are being added to on a fairly regular basis. Like so many things in stamp collecting there is no right or wrong way to collect Machins they are simply different.

So until next time good luck and happy sorting... Dave

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**View the membership applications and the magazine at
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Philatelic Elements

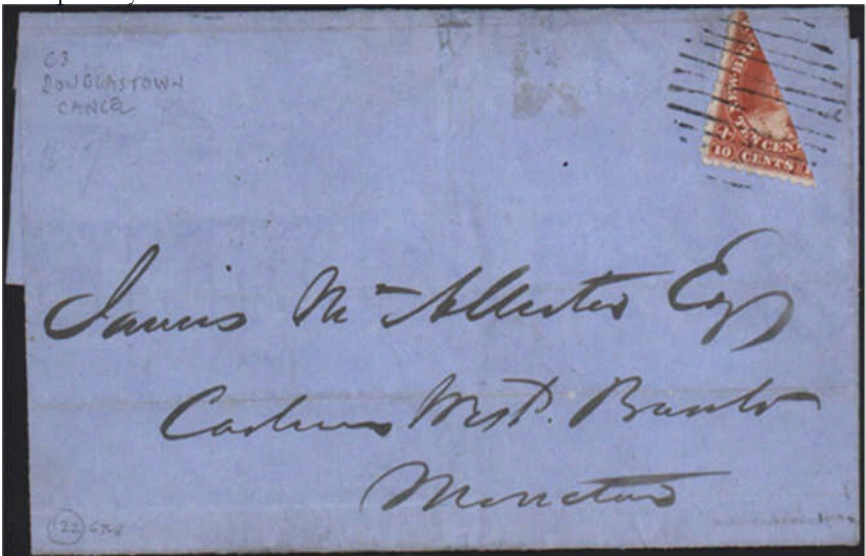
Frank Alusio, FRPSC
falusio@sympatico.ca

Bisect Stamp

A Bisect is a postage stamp cut in half (usually diagonally), and used to pay half its face value, e.g. half a ten cent stamp to pay five.

When stocks of a certain stamp ran out, postmasters sometimes resorted to cutting higher denominated stamps in half, vertically or diagonally, thus obtaining two "stamps" each representing half of the original monetary value, or "face" value, of the uncut stamp. The general public also resorted to this practice, sometimes pursuant to official or tacit permission and sometimes without any express authorization.

Many bisects and splits are considerably more valuable than the stamps from which they were made. These, however, only have philatelic value when the cut portion is still affixed to the letter or envelope or a piece showing the postmarks, as otherwise it cannot be confirmed that the stamp was in fact postally used as a split and not simply a complete stamp that was cut up after use. Don't try it today - it's illegal to cut, deface or even overlap stamps on your mail.



New Brunswick #9a, 10c vermilion, Queen Victoria Very Fine Used Bisect on folded letter from Douglastown (cancel) to Moncton.

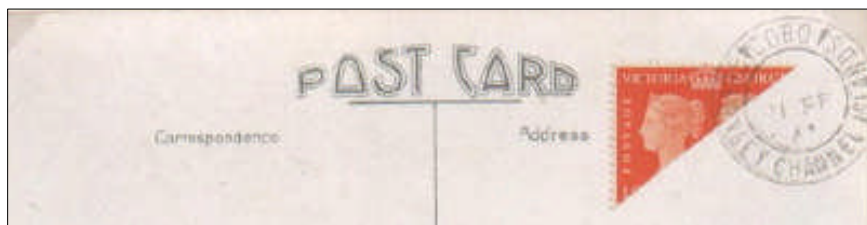
Douglastown was originally known as Gretna Green and was founded in 1812 by two Scottish immigrants, Alexander Rankin and James Gilmour. The post office was established in 1835, but the community wasn't incorporated as a village until 1966. Douglastown is now a Canadian suburban which was amalgamated in 1995 to form the City of Miramichi, New Brunswick.

Many of these instances have been well documented in postal history. For example the Channel Islands bisects during the World War II German military occupation.

The most common bisect was the twopenny orange from January 1938 (picture at right)



The second bisect (below) was the twopenny stamp from the "Centenary of First Postage Stamps" (issued 6th May 1940).



Channel Islands scans and descriptions from <http://bills-bunker.de/122401.html>

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Coveting Covers

John Wilson

wilsonjn@sympatico.ca

A Little Knowledge is a WONDERFUL Thing

For this column I'd like to show two covers, both recent eBay purchases, where contextual knowledge helped me acquire very useful items.

The first is an early airmail cover, from an experimental Supermarine 'Southampton' flying boat survey flight. Led by the improbably named Group-Capt. Cave-Brown-Cave (!), the four planes left Felixstowe Oct. 14, 1927, reaching Calcutta on Feb. 3, 1928, and Broome, Australia on June 1. Leaving Darwin, Australia on Sept. 1, it reached its furthest point in the Orient, Manila, on Nov. 9th. There the aviators were greeted as heroes and a special set of stamps overprinted "L.O.F." for "London Orient Flight" was issued in their honour. Between 500 and 700 covers were sent from Manila to Hong Kong (and beyond) on the return flight Nov. 16 and my new possession was one of these! Though duly back stamped on arrival in Hong Kong on the morning of Nov. 18 the seller did not see the importance of the cover to Hong Kong aerophilately – it is part of the first mail to be carried into the Colony by airplane.



The second cover is far easier to describe. Sent 27 May 1941, it attracted my eye because it bears two of the Centenary designs issued in February of that year.

One of them carried the requisition number “A”, for the consignment of the six-value set. I am pretty sure that because of this selvedge tab I had to fight for the cover – but I was ultimately much more interested in the corner card information. The sender was W. E. Jones of 23 A Cameron Road in Kowloon – and the **stamp’s designer!** The association is worth far more to me than the stamps on it, or even the tiny censor marking, a boxed “44”, on the reverse.



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Scouts on Stamps

Tony Manson

tony.manson@sympatico.ca

Baden-Powell Boer War Patriotic Cards

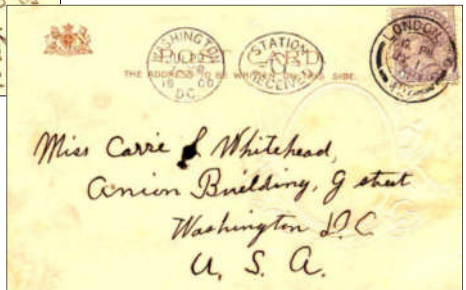
Lord Baden-Powell became famous during the Boer War in successfully defending the garrison town of Mafeking in the Cape Of Good Hope from a Boer siege that lasted 216 days, from October 14, 1899 to May 17, 1900. As a result, a number of “patriotic cards” were printed to celebrate this achievement, including these two mint cards.

Other postally used cards are shown below.

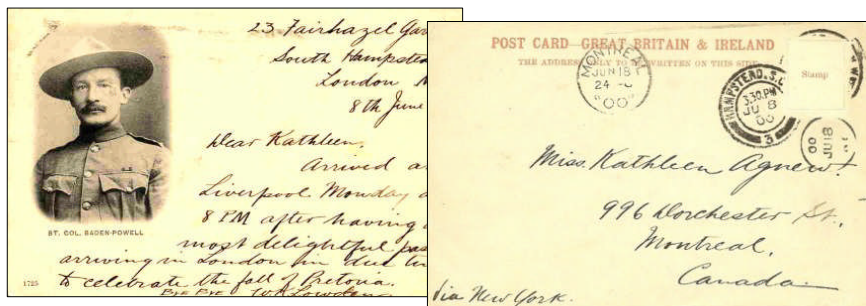


This card was mailed from London, England on July 19, 1900, to Washington, DC. It has a one penny Postage and Inland Revenue stamp, with a nice London 42, 10 pm, JY 19

cancel. Also on the back is a Washington, Station C Received cancel showing receipt at 7:30 pm on Jul 29. This equates to ten days delivery via transatlantic ship.



The card on the next page was mailed from South Hampstead, London on June 8, 1900 to Montreal. It shows a Hampstead SW 3 cancel of 3:30 pm, JU 8, even though someone had peeled off the stamp (for shame!). The Montreal cancellation has a date of June 18, which means another ten day delivery. This is even more impressive since the delivery had an extra step “Via New York”.



This last card was mailed from the Cape of Good Hope on May 23 to Keene, Peterboro Co. Ontario. It has a one penny Cape of Good Hope stamp with a nice 23 May 00 Cape Colony cancel. On the front is a Keene, ON cancel with what looks like a date of JU 2, 00. Note that the mail date of May 23 was only one week after the relief of the siege on May 17.



Also of interest is the printing near the bottom centre of the front of the card, which says “Besieged October 14, 1899, Relieved”. The world was following the news of a relief column of soldiers marching toward Mafeking, and it appears this card creator wanted his product available for sale in time for the relief. So he let the buyer fill in the actual relief date, which this sender did by writing in “17th May 1900”.



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Unusual Postage Stamps

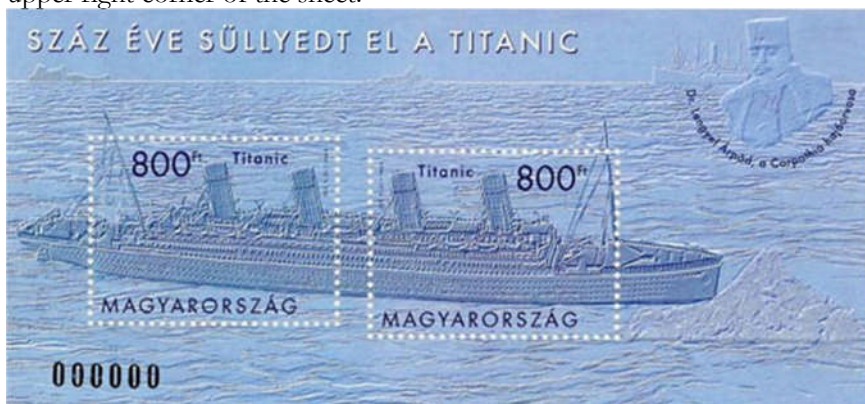
Jerry Piotrowski

jerrypiotrowski74@hotmail.com

Titanic

This year, many countries including Canada have issued stamps to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. At least two of these issues fall into the Unusual Postage Stamps category.

On April 12 Hungary issued a souvenir sheet showing the Titanic heading towards the iceberg. The two stamps show parts of the ship. The production of the sheet, which is embossed to simulate waves, used an iridescent spot varnish screen-printing process to scatter particles across the sheet creating an icy sparkle. The sheet also honours Dr. Árpád Lengyel, the ship's doctor on the RMS Carpathia the first vessel to hurry to Titanic's aid. His portrait along with a silhouette of the Carpathia appears in the upper right corner of the sheet.



On April 16 Belgium issued a small sheet of two stamps in memory of Titanic. As with other 3D or stereoscopic issues the two stamps are not completely identical. Slight differences are required to allow for the 3D effect to be appreciated when seen through special glasses.

The sheet was sold along with a pair of 3D glasses allowing buyers to not only view the sheet but also enjoy the April 2012 release of the 3D version of James Cameron's 1997 movie Titanic.



If you have information about unusual stamps and would like me to add it to future articles on this subject please email me at jerry Piotrowski74@hotmail.com using unusual stamps in the subject line or give it to your club GTAPA representative to pass along to me at a GTAPA board meeting... Jerry Piotrowski

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What's New at the Greene Foundation?

Garfield Portch FRPSC

By now many readers will be aware that there is a new machine residing at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation that is being used for the forensic analysis of stamps and other philatelic material.

The machine is called a Video Spectral Comparator, model VSC 6000/HS manufactured in the United Kingdom by Foster+Freeman. The company literature refers to this technology as “an advanced workstation for the visual examination of questioned documents”. Although originally intended for the analysis of banknotes, security documents and passports the technology can be easily adapted to the field of forensic philately. At present there are only three of these machines in the world that are being used for the analysis of philatelic material. They are at the Royal Philatelic Society in London, England; the Smithsonian in Washington; and the Greene Foundation in Toronto.



The VSC 6000 consists of a large box containing a number of lamps, filters and optical lenses working in conjunction with a desktop computer and a large (30") flat screen monitor. It features an imaging system with distortion free magnification up to X170. The operator navigates the system using on-screen icons via a PC mouse.

In operation, the subject stamp can be illuminated by lamps using ultraviolet, infrared or the complete range of visible light. The light can be applied as a floodlight or spotlight from above or transmitted (from behind) light. Each range of lighting permits the examination of a particular characteristic of paper, ink or applied markings. The number of combinations of light wavelengths and filters is in excess of 450 (before considering magnification). Of special interest to us is the examination to

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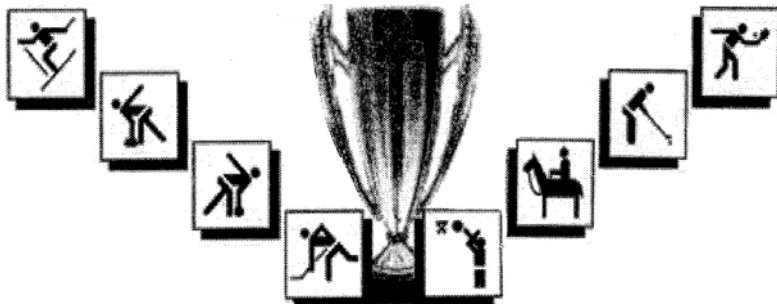
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provide evidence of the removal of postal markings. The following photographs display a small sampling of results obtained to date.

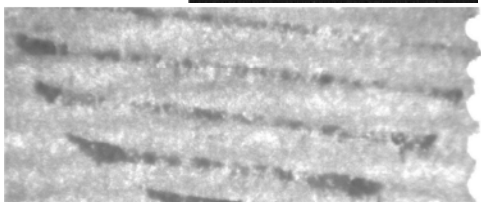
The first photo shows a stamp with what appears to be heavily cancelled on the right. By inverting the light (creating a negative), we can see a repair hidden in the cancellation. Magnification (x25) shows the expert repair.



Here is a 3-cent Large Queen on laid paper. The first picture is simply a 300 dpi scan) to illustrate the stamp. The second uses transmitted visible light (back lighting) to show the laid lines while



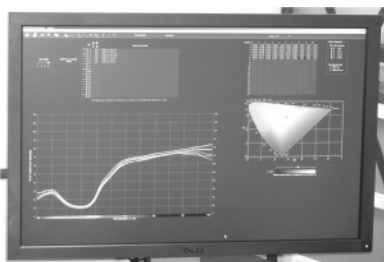
the third shows the laid lines under infrared light at 665 nanometers.





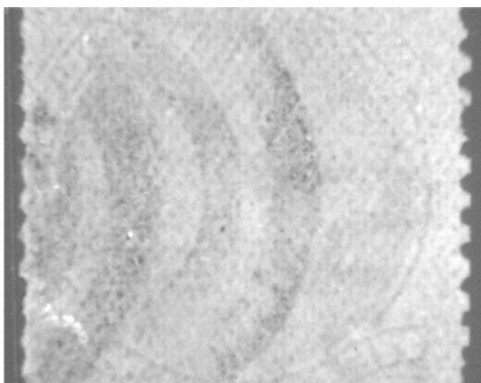
Floodlighting and magnification (X15) shows the addition of a top margin and the hand painting to fill the missing part of the design.

(Note the details presented at the foot of the illustration to preserve the technical details of the examination.)



A photograph of the analysis of colour on a stamp. Each line on the graph is a colour sampling from various points on the stamp and indicates a small shading variance.

By combining magnification, fluorescence comparison and infrared, we are able to see and photograph the distinctive diamond pattern of the Bothwell paper in Large Queens.

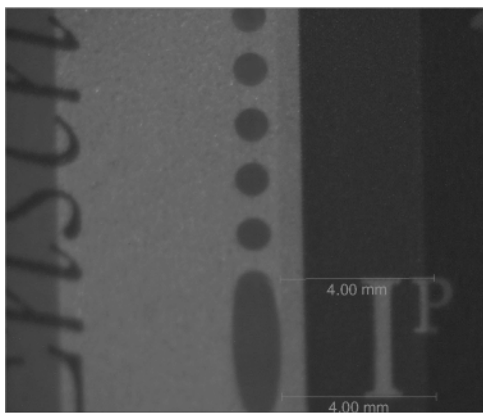




An analysis of paper fluorescence shows up the expert repair of the upper right corner on this stamp.



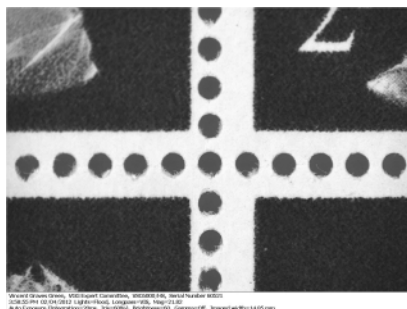
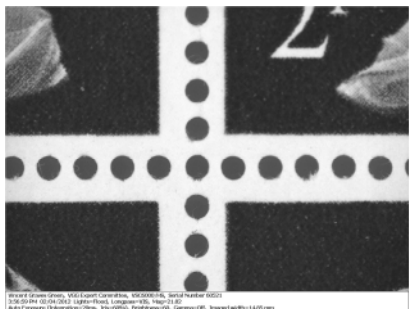
Two applications for viewing phosphor bars are shown here. The first shows the illuminated yellow phosphor while the second shows the regular phosphor and the phosphor plate number in the margin.



Another useful tool built into the program allows for measurement accurate to the nearest 100th of a millimeter. This example illustrates the measurement of the varnish bar used to improve the efficiency of the phosphor bars.

Vincent Graves Green, VSG Expert Committee, VSG0000-16, Serial Number 60021
3/20/2014 12:04:20.2 Light=22mm Ultra-Violet, Longpass=195, Stop=23.62
Auto Exposure (Integration=1 s, Gain=100%), Brightness=60, Gamma=0.5, Image width=14.00 mm

The Greene Foundation is generally open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Readers are invited to make use of the library. Please telephone first to ensure that the library is not in use for a meeting and also to confirm that a librarian will be available to assist you. 416-921-2073 www.greenefoundation.ca



Simple magnification is a great tool for comparing details such as the perforation holes on these Machin stamps. The example on the left shows the clean holes of the Kampf perforator while the right shows the dirty holes of the APS perforator.

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Questions should be directed to **Bob Traquair, Pres.**

bobtraq@yahoo.ca - or - (416)924-3271

**Mail addressed to the “Moskauer Hilfskomite für Kriegsgefangene”
in Denmark during WW1**

On October 3 1914 the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva contacted the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen asking it to set up an office to provide among other things a means of forwarding letters from Russian prisoners of war held in camps in Germany to their families in Russia. It is estimated that during the period 1915 –1917 this office handled almost 1,400,000 letters the contents of which were forwarded to Russia.

Four types of envelopes were used in mailing the items to Copenhagen. Plain envelopes printed Kriegsgefangenensendung (Prisoner of war mail), printed envelopes for specific camps and preaddressed envelopes for use by several camps. Some of the camp-specific and preaddressed envelopes must have been printed several times since varieties in fonts or layouts are evident.



Printed addressed envelope. Gnadenfrei 13.10.16. This envelope was used by several camps. Offizierlager. The prison had been a boy's school belonging to a religious brotherhood. Gnadenfrei is present day Pilawa Górna in Poland.

As a rule commissioned officer were held in “Offizierlager” (Officer Camp) while enlisted men and NCOs (non-commissioned officers) were held in “Mannschaftslager” (Unit Camp). A “Lazarett” was a military hospital for POW’s either an independent camp or a part of a larger camp. Civilians of enemy states were held in “Internierungslager” (Internment camp).

In my collection of over 40 covers (which includes different envelopes from certain camps) most are from Officer Camps. These Russian officers

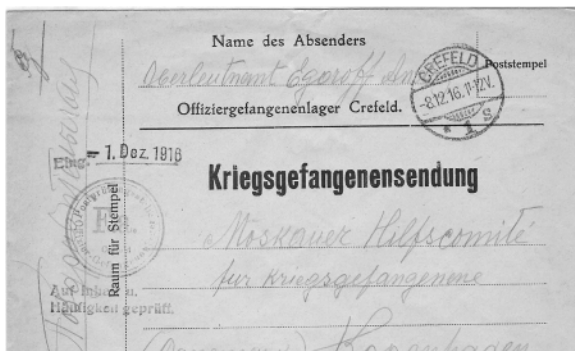


would have used a Cyrillic script at home but either quickly adapted to using the Latin alphabet or possibly had help from the camp guards in addressing the envelopes. Certainly the letters being sent home would have been using Cyrillic script so that their families at home could read them.

Plain envelope. Königstein 6.7.17 Offizierlager.

The prison camp was in a fortress high above the river Elbe.

As prisoner of war mail all items were free of postage and were marked either with the written text or hand stamp “Kriegsgefangenenensendung” (Prisoner of war mail). In some cases if a prisoner had the funds and chose to send the letter by registered post then a 40-Pfennig stamps was required. All items sent to the agency were stamped with a regular cancellation device showing the camp name and cancellation date and are therefore easily identifiable as to the camp origin.



Camp specific envelope. Crefeld 8.12.16 Offizierlager. The camp was also the site of a Lazarett.

All items were censored and show a variety of “Geprüft” (inspected/checked) hand stamps usually with the camp name included (see second cover) One of the covers in my collection has an uncommon embossed censor mark. In addition to being censored, the mail was held for a period of about 10 days before being mailed to Denmark thus making anything that might have slipped by the censor in effect “stale dated information”. Virtually all covers show a “Fa” (“Frist abgelaufen” –time period expired) marking of one sort or another. This wait time can be verified on some covers, which show a stamped date as received by the censor of 10 or so days prior to cancellation and mailing.



Printed POW mail envelope. Gütersloh 1.3.16 Offizierlager:
The camp consisted of brick buildings originally built as a sanatorium.

Luckily only the contents of these covers to Denmark were forwarded to Russia and just as with the post WW2 mail from Poland to the International Red Cross in Geneva the covers survived and are now in the hands of collectors and postal historians.

Thank you to Alan Wishart of Scotland for his notes on the subject and to Marcel Nadal of France for copies of his articles in Le Philatliste Croix-Rouge.



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Ajax Philatelic Society RPSC Chapter #163

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 pm to 9 pm at Ajax Public Library on Harwood Road South (south of the 401).

Free parking and wheelchair accessibility

Don Beaumont 905-426-3612 donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com

Ron Christie 905-432-7628 ronaldchristie@rogers.com

David Goreski 905-579-3349 davidgoreski@sympatico.ca

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

Bob Thorne, FRPSC 905-792-3526 r.thorne@sympatico.ca

www.bramaleastampclub.com

Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society RPSC Chapter #82

Meets on the 3rd Thursday each month at
Hampton Securities, 141 Adelaide Street West
Joe Janthur 416-364-4112

MAPLE LEAF CHAPTER, SOSSI SCOUTS ON STAMPS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month from Sept to May at 2:00 pm
(coffee/cookies at 1:30 pm).

Meetings are held in different locations within Toronto and southwestern Ontario.

The 2012/2013 schedule is: Sep 16 Etobicoke; Oct 21 Kitchener Scout House; Nov 18 Etobicoke; Jan 20 Etobicoke; Feb 17 Etobicoke; Mar 17 Hamilton Scout House; Apr 21 Niagara Falls Scout House and Museum; May 26 Stratford.

Tony Manson 416-447-4281 tony.manson@sympatico.ca.

North Toronto Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #5

Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month (except July, Aug and Dec) at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street (a short walk north of the St. Clair TTC subway station) Members begin arriving between 6:30 and 7:00pm

George Sachs 416-453-5641 grsachs@gmail.com

Lloyd Yamada 416-787-9232 slloyd Yamada@hotmail.ca

North York Philatelic Society RPSC Chapter #21

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from Sept to June
July and August, 3rd Wednesday only

Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue

Mike Turk 905-731-8380 turkm@accessv.com

Oshawa / Whitby / Brooklin Group RPSC Chapter #230

The Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin stamp group meets 3 times every week - with the exception of the Whitby Group, which closes for July and August.

OSHAWA - on Friday mornings 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at the Legends Community Centre (Seniors Section) 1661 Harmony Rd. N. in Oshawa

WHITBY - Monday mornings from 10 am to noon at Whitby Seniors Centre 801 Brock Street in Whitby

BROOKLIN - 6.30 pm to 9 pm at the Brooklin Community Centre (Seniors Section) 8 Vipond Rd in Brooklin

Larry Friend 905-723-8798 lfriend@sympatico.ca

Polish-Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "Troyak"

Meets on the last Sunday of each month, except holidays, at 4:30 pm

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga

Tom Malicki 905-281-0000

Wieslaw Grzesicki 416-258-1651

info@troyakclub.com or www.troyakclub.com

Scarborough Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #223

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month except December, July and August, at Cedarbrook Community Centre, Rooms 1 & 2, main floor, 91 East Park Blvd. (near Markham and Lawrence), Scarborough

Doug Cockburn 416-757-4072

Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club Founded 1892

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except July and Aug) at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Room 502, 1585 Yonge Street (a short walk north of the St. Clair TTC Subway Station). Limited parking is available in the church parking lot. City parking lot is within 100 yds. of the church.

Members gather at 7 p.m. for a programme commencing at 7:30 p.m

Owen White 416-481-4731 owen.white@sympatico.ca

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

Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, 2445 Bloor Street West, Toronto

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

West Toronto Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #14; APS Ch. #174151

Meets on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays from Sept to June at 7:00

Fairfield Senior Centre, 60 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

The 1st Tuesday is the Machin Study Group, regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays feature auctions, 3rd Tuesday feature discussion.

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

Garfield Portch, FRPSC 416-239-0623 gportch@ca.inter.net

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