

PhilaJournal

www.gtapa.org

Spring 2013

Volume XI Number 3 Whole Number 43 ISSN 1718-2387

YEAR OF THE SNAKE

February 10, 2013 to January 30, 2014



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THE TRANSITIONAL SOUVENIR SHEET**

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Welcome to Spring 2013 PhilaJournal

Volume XI Number 3 Whole Number 43 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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Subscriptions

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Our Cover: Transitional Souvenir Sheets by Peter Butler, FRPSC

The souvenir sheet, below, was issued last year and was the first “Transitional souvenir sheet” to be issued by Canada Post. The 2013 souvenir sheet on the cover is the second in the series and, for the philatelist, represent examples of a new philatelic *element*.

The transitional souvenir sheets emphasize the changing lunar years of the Rabbit to the Dragon (2012) and the Dragon to the Snake (2013).

The year of the Snake international rate stamp shows two final finishes, gold foil and embossing. In the right light, creating the right shadows, a three dimensional effect of a snake slithering through the water is created. For information about the designers of the stamp and the printing processes of such a stunning stamp, refer to pages 6 and 7 of the January to March, 2013 issue of *Details*.

On a different, and personal note, the five issues of the Chinese Lunar New Year stamps, 2009 to 2013, are among the finest examples of superb stamp design and printing that Canada Post has ever produced. One could argue they are among the finest stamps ever issued. I hope that they are included in your Canadian collection.



The Editor's Input

Susan Butler

sbutler@ilap.com

Spring !

Here is the Spring edition of PhilaJournal already! As we are putting this issue together, the warm weather might seem a long way off but I have noticed that the days are getting longer and the seed catalogues are arriving.

To celebrate Spring, we have included information about the upcoming Spring shows for your planning. There are many from which to choose, both close to home and along the 401 and QEW! Peter and I are planning to go to as many as we can. Even though I am a semi collector, I do enjoy the shows. Poking around in those file boxes for the perfect postcard is inexpensive fun and I also have the opportunity to meet other collectors.



In December, we went to several stamp club celebrations. As usual we had a good time, though I do not always get excited about the philatelic door prizes! The Scarborough Stamp Club has a tradition of excellent prizes. Their table is co-ordinated by longtime members, Wendy Bargh and Alice Burke.

Here they are with a couple of their festive baskets.

Did you know that Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands is abdicating in favour of her son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander? As I have said before, a philatelist can change one's perspective on the almost anything so when I commented on that fact recently, the philatelist's response was, "Oh, great....new stamp issues". I rest my case.

Our cover shows a Transitional Souvenir sheet celebrating moving from the Year of Dragon to the Year of the Snake on February 10, 2013. Read more on page 4 (the previous page).

The President's Viewpoint

Larry Friend

lfriend@sympatico.ca

Planned Succession of a Stamp Collection

Many years ago – 45 to be exact – I happened to mention, to one of my clients, that I had once been a stamp collector. He announced to me he was an avid stamp collector and, much to my delight, he encouraged me to resume my collecting interests. Thus, an instant friendship was formed.

After many visits to his home, for business purposes, he became showing me some of his prized collections. He lamented he could not keep up all his collecting interests and offered to sell me his Canadian collection. I eagerly accepted his offer.

He then went on to say that there was a new stamp auction house in town from British Columbia and they were trying to establish a stamp business here in Toronto. They had limited success with most items selling for 10%. You can guess where we were the next week.

It was at this time that we both joined the East Toronto (where the silent auction became my responsibility) and the Scarborough Stamps club (where I served as president for 8 years). It was a happy marriage. I was learning from him and, in trade, I would take him to the club meetings.

One weekend my friend was not able to attend a particular auction but he noted there was a nice Ireland collection coming up and asked me to bid on it on his behalf ... up to \$200. Well, the collection eventually went up to \$225 but I went ahead and bought it on his behalf. He was not pleased that I had spent \$25 over his limit. After looking the collection over and hearing my suggestion that I would be happy to buy it for myself though, he handed over the extra \$25.

On a business side I was asked to be the executor of both his and his wife's will. Usually, as a personal financial adviser we would not except that role as it might show as a conflict of interest – however, as a close friend, I excepted his request.

Unfortunately, my friend passed away a few months ago and I found I was not only the executor of his will, but also he had willed his stamp collection to me. Not only did I get back the coveted Irish collection (45 years later), but his entire stamp collection of 60 volumes.

While we were at the East Toronto Club a grand lady, Dorothy Attwells, was selling first day covers from Norfolk Island. We were both interested. However, Jeff won the coinflip so, along with the Irish collection, I now have the missing Norfolk Covers. Jeff is probably smiling...Thanks, Jeff.

I have made similar provisions to pass on my collection when I go. As well, I am in the process of amalgamating the two collections. Jeff would be happy to know that I am donating stamps and parts of his collections, and others, to the youth in clubs in my area. In return for the donation, the young person sends a thank-you note to the home where the stamps were originally from. From the many collections I have been asked to dispose of, several such letters have been sent.

Have you made provision for the succession of your collections?

Larry



Represented by Michael Moffat

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Sorting Tips

In this issue I'd like to discuss some of the subtle variations that can be found on many of the myriad of Machins that we all have in our collections.

Perforations

We all have, in our possessions, at least one, or possibly even a couple, of different perforation gauges of some kind. We all tend to prefer one type to any other when using them. They are pretty simple to use and checking a couple of items usually takes no time at all. However, my accumulation consists of several hundreds and that elusive little pearl may be the item that has a perforation slightly different from the majority.

Perforation differences on Machins are generally $13\frac{1}{2}$ and $14\frac{3}{4}$ or $13\frac{3}{4}$ and $14\frac{3}{4}$ on the horizontal edges. The vertical perforations are constant at 14. Once the two perforations are identified and good examples of these located, I use those examples as gauges to check all the outstanding items. Simply offering a perforation to a perforation will tell you if they are the same. I find it surprisingly easy to detect a perforation when the two examples are in front of me and I can skip through a large batch of stamps in very little time. Any item trimmed of perforations to look like a booklet item, can be detected by counting the number of perforation holes remaining. There should always be 14 half-holes horizontally and 16 half-holes vertically.

Regional Symbols

The 3 most common Regional Symbols used on Machins have some very subtle differences while the 4th, the Isle of Man, has none.

The Lion and Dragon of Scotland and Wales, respectively, both show Type 1 and Type 2 differences in the eyes. Type 1 demonstrates white dots in the center in both instances while Type 2 shows no eye dot and is also joined to the background. The vertical line down the neck and body of the Dragon shows the difference between Type 1a and Type 1b, Type 1a being broken and Type 1b being solid.

The Right Red Hand of Ulster differences between Types 1 and 2 of can be seen in the line thickness of the thumb joint. Type 1 is thin and faint and Type 2 is heavier. Type 2a also shows distinct pearls in the crown while Type 2b demonstrates some pearls joined together.

These differences can be seen with the naked eye but a magnifying glass does make it easier. These are the easiest differences to detect. However, there are several others and I suggest a full description be obtained if one is to differentiate between a number of examples.

Paper Thickness

The paper thickness differences can be readily felt when one compares one stamp to another between one's fingers. I do not recommend that anyone handle mint stamps nor do I suggest that you handle your stamps excessively but the differences in thickness can be felt. If a copy has been determined to be either thicker or thinner than the normal, its actual thickness can be measured accurately with a micrometer. Now most writing paper is 0.004" in thickness and this is also similar for Machins. However, due to Royal Mail specifying the paper to be used by weight (Grams per square metre or gms), and the base paper, the printed coatings and the gum all add up and each can vary somewhat, physical sizes for thickness are not stated. I have found that in general phosphor band coating adds about 0.0002" in thickness and therefore care must be exercised in ensuring that readings are always taken either on or clear of the bands. Physical sizes are generally not stated in the Deegam Machin Handbook but Douglas Myall states that thicknesses can vary from between 0.051mm (0.0020") and 0.092mm (0.0036") and throughout he does mention the use of thinner and thicker papers. I hope these tips will help. Happy sortingDave

Congratulations, Peter!



Congratulations to GTAPA Past President, Peter Butler, shown here receiving the 2012 Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award from American Philatelic Society's President, Wade Saadi. The presentation was made at the American Philatelic Society's General Meeting at the AmeriStamp Expo show in Louisville, Kentucky on January 19, 2013.

Statistics on Xmas Mail

Statistics from *Canada Post* were recently shared with the philatelic press and many were published in *Canadian Stamp News*. In case you missed them, here is a review of some of the numbers with regard to mail delivery over the month of December. They are very informative and are really quite staggering in their implications. Some of the figures were predictions (P) others were hard facts (F).

- (P) A billion pieces of mail will be delivered to homes across the country during December.
- (F) Canada Post travelled 1.5 km each business day to deliver mail and parcels to 15 million addresses across Canada.
- (F) That business translates to 75,000 kilograms of mail per day above the normal daily average.
- (P) An expected high of 1,330 vehicles will carry mail daily and the December mail will amount to approximately 25 per cent of Canada Post's annual retail transactions. Nearly 20 per cent of mail sent into Canada from abroad will be during the holiday season.
- (F) The five biggest mailers to Canada are the United States, Britain, China, Hong Kong and South Korea. *The last one is a surprise. What happened to Europe?*
- (F) In addition to the 69,000 regular employees, Canada Post brings in an additional 1,000 seasonal workers. The additional staff will remain working Dec. 26th to 28th to process and deliver on line purchases by Boxing Day shoppers.

Next time you think about the philatelic community impacting on stamp sales, please think again and re-read the above statistics.

After reading the Canada Post statistics, I began to wonder:

- How many pieces of Christmas mail arrived at homes uncanceled? How many of those uncanceled stamps were removed to be re-used or sold at a later date?
- How many commemorative stamps were cancelled once by a post office and again with a spray-on cancellation at a sorting plant?
- How many parcels were shipped around the world did not have stamps on them but labels?

- Finally, I wonder how many of those commemoratives were nicely cancelled, how many covers from around the world were collectible and how many stamps and covers will end up in collections and albums of stamp collectors?

On a slightly different tangent, one thing I know for sure is that because of the realities outlined above, current commemoratives are difficult to come by. Club circuit books, dealer stock books and individual collector stock books for traders have very few Canadian commemoratives. They are “as scarce as hen’s teeth!” Collectors are responding to this situation by changing their methods to obtain them.

One solution, which is growing in practice, is to put commemoratives on envelopes, have the postal clerk hand cancel them and hand-back the envelopes or have them hand cancelled and mailed to yourself. Similarly, I note that a growing number of collectors of used stamps are removing commemoratives from FDCs. They certainly have attractive cancellations! Still others are reverting to collecting only mint stamps. So how are you coping with the changing challenges of our hobby? I would love to hear from you. pbutler@ilap.com

MONTHLY POSTAGE STAMP SHOWS

SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB

Location: Cedarbrook Community Centre

91 Eastpark Blvd. (Markham Rd and Lawrence Ave)

2 lights south of Lawrence, off Markham Road

Bus routes: Lawrence Ave. E. Bus # 54, Markham Rd. Bus #102

Lots of FREE parking No admission charge

**Dates: March 16, April 27, May 18, June 22,
July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26,
November 16, December 14**

Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Club Sales Circuit Table (5 and 10 cent books, and
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Between 4 and 8 dealers per show - New dealers welcome

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SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2013

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For information - contact Herb at (416) 445-7720

email: herbletsche@gmail.com

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
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.

Gutter Pair

The philatelic use of the word “gutter” is the space left between postage stamps which allow them to be separated or perforated.

Gutter pairs are a set of two stamps connected by a central label with, or without, printing on the label. The central label that separates panes of stamps is not valid for postage, but labels with "traffic lights" and other markings are often highly sought by collectors. Gutter pairs or gutter blocks must contain complete stamps on both sides of the gutter, with or without perforations.

In other words, a "gutter" has to be something extra (and not part of the normal selvage). You could have, for instance, a British gutter single, identifiable by its design (as opposed to selvage from the edge of the pane), and more commonly, you could have a gutter pair of various worldwide stamps, with an extra piece of paper, with or without design or text, between them.

Here is a fine example of a gutter pair used on a cover:



Canada, 1882

1¢ postal stationery envelope (U5) mailed from Emerson Manitoba on 10 June 1895 to Berlin, Ontario (back-stamped Berlin, 14 June) franked with additional postage of 1/2¢ black (34), gutter pair and normal pair, paying the 3¢ rate to deliver a domestic letter.

It is one of the finest of only seven recorded covers bearing the 1/2¢ Small Queen gutter pair.

A Modern Classic

Local dealer Ted Wright found this cover for me and I remain very grateful. It's inexpensive but, oh so classic! I thought I had a pretty good collection of Bechuanaland postmarks, however this was new to me. Not surprising – for it is from a South African train!

Mail had been carried by train since the 1890's at least, as, owing to the isolated nature of many places, it was more practical to post letters directly on the train. A "handling fee" was payable for this service, originally a penny, then a penny-and-a-half. But, from July 1, 1921 this was raised to two pence.

Mail had to be in the hands of the Station Master at least ten minutes before the arrival of the train and had to be sealed across the flap by him with a copy of Form T. 110. Unusually, this letter received a Johannesburg arrival cancel the following day, when it transferred into the postal service either at the Railway Station P.O. or the G.P.O.

Altogether there are 11 stations within Bechuanaland which have numbered cancellations of this type, starting at number 090 at the south and ending at 100 just short of the Rhodesian border: Lobatsi, Ramoutsa, Gaberones, Pilane, Debeeti, Palla Road, Mahalapye, Palapye, Seruli, Francistown, and Tsessebe – a euphonious collection!

If anyone has seen further examples, do please let me know; obviously, they are uncommon. Interestingly, the Head Post Office for Bechuanaland Protectorate was located further south, in Mafeking, an enclave actually situated within South Africa. The Head Office did not relocate inside its own country, to Mochudi, until 1958, and Bechuanaland did not assume full control over its postal affairs until 1963, leaving the bulk of the organizational work to be carried on by South Africa. It would have seemed normal enough, as the very first postal services offered in this great sparsely-populated area were those provided in the 1880's by the Cape of Good Hope.

So, thanks to a dealer – and this is how one's best finds are so often made! – my Bechuanaland collection expanded into a completely new dimension.

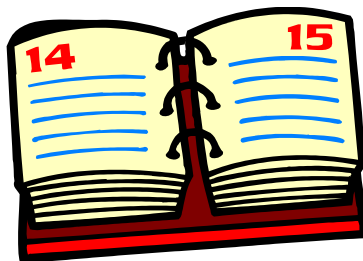


3d postage is the 1d. letter rate and 2d rail handling charge, all paid by Bechuanaland postage stamps



Other aspects of South African "mail by rail" are much better-known than these cancels. For example, the individual states had special rail cancels marked 'up' and 'down' in English and Afrikaans, and one can find Transvaal overprinted and perfined stamps of the C.S.A.R., the unified rail service that predated the Union.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



BURLOAK Stamp Show

Saturday, March 16, April 20, May 16, 2013 from 9 am to 2 pm
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca), Burlington
Free admission and parking Info: 905-575-2950 or bas6@bell.net

NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

March 23, 2013 from 10 am to 4 pm
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto
Free admission Snack bar Info: Herb at 416-445-7720

NYPEX 2013 North York Stamp Club

Saturday, March 30, 2013 from 10 am to 3pm.
Carnegie Centennial Arena in the Skaters' Lounge 580 Finch Ave W
Info: Mike at 905-731-8380 turkm39@gmail.com Free admission

KAPEX

Saturday, March 23, 2013 9:30 to 4:30
Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd, Peterborough
Free admission and parking Info: stankiewicz@nexicom.net

AUCTION...OSHAWA/WHITBY/BROOKLIN

Sunday, April 7, Viewing 10 am Auction 12:30 to 4:00
Brooklin Library and Seniors Centre 8 Vipond Road, Brooklin

STAMPFEST Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society

Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 to 4:00
Community Christian Reform Church 1275 Bleams Road, Kitchener
Info: Oscar at 519-742-5892

NORTH YORK STAMP CLUB Spring Auction

April 17, 2013 at 7.00 pm (See location info at NYPEX above)

CSDA Canadian Stamp Dealers Association

April 19 (11:00 to 6:00, 20 (10:00 to 5:00), 21(10:00 to 4:00)
Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place

AJAX-PICKERING STAMP & COIN SHOW

Sunday, April 21, 2013 from 10 am to 4 pm

PICKERING RECREATION COMPLEX 1867 Valley Farm Road,

Pickering Free admission and parking Lunch available

ORAPEX

Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, 2013

RA Centre in Ottawa Free admission and parking

Info: www.orapex.ca Brian Watson brian150@sympatico.ca

ROPEX/NTSS 2013

Rochester Philatelic Association/American Topical Association

May 17 (11:00 to 6:00) May 18 (10:00 to 5:00) May 19 (10:00 to 3:00)

Main Street Armoury 900 Main St., Rochester, New York

Info: www.rpastamps.org/ropex

ROYAL*2013*ROYALE (RPSC National Convention)

June 21 to 23, 2013 from 10:00 to 5:00

University of Manitoba's University Centre

Info: al.wingate@shaw.ca or www.rpsc.org

North York Philatelic Society

Presents

NYPEX 2013

Saturday March 30, 2013

10 am to 3 pm

Herbert H. Carnegie Arena

Skater's Lounge - 580 Finch Avenue West – Toronto

8 Dealers – Silent Auction

Free Parking – Free Admission – Refreshments Available

Our Spring Auction will be held April 17th, 2013 at 7 pm

also to be held at the above address

For info – call Mike Turk 905-731-8380 - Email – turkm39@gmail.com



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BURLOAK STAMP SHOW

Monthly Shows * 6 – 9 dealers

2013 Show Schedule

March 16th – April 20th – May 16th

3rd Saturday of each month all year

9 am to 2 pm

Burlington Senior Centre

2285 New Street (at Seneca)

*** Lots of Free Parking – free admission ***

For further information – call (905) 575-2950

E-MAIL – bas6@bell.net

Ajax-Pickering Stamp Club

Presents the

AJAX-PICKERING STAMP & COIN SHOW

* * * **NEW LOCATION** * * *

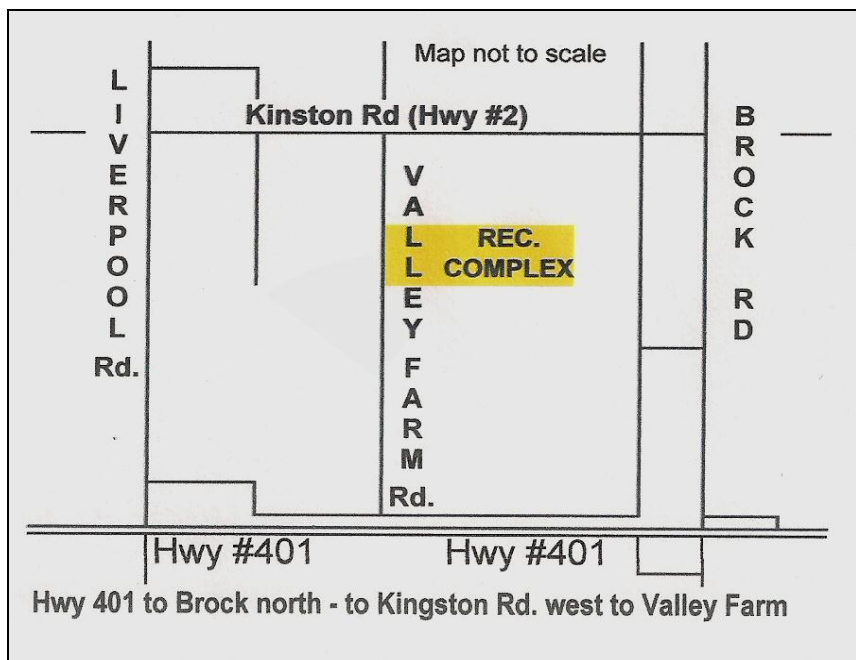
PICKERING RECREATION COMPLEX

1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering

SUNDAY APRIL 21st, 2013

10 AM to 4 PM

Free admission & Parking – Lunch available
Stamp & Coin Dealers – Club & Youth Tables



THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Contact: David G. Jones, Secretary
184 Larkin Drive
Nepean, ON Canada K2J 1H9

website: <http://www.bnaps.org>

BNAPS – *The Society for Canadian Philately*



R P S C PHILATELIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Collectors are encouraged to **Donate Philatelic Material** to the Foundation and receive a **Charitable Donation Receipt** for the appraised **Fair Market Value**.

We seek philatelic material **valued from \$500** with no upper limit - material can be general accumulations, bulk material and or world wide unorganized collections.

All material is appraised by a CSDA member

Donations are used to educate school age children by providing necessary equipment and leadership aids to teach philatelic and Postal history principles. Assistance may be provided for appropriate research activities.

Cash donations are also welcome.

Questions should be directed to Ted Nixon 416-921-2073

Scouts on Stamps

Tony Manson

tony.manson@sympatico.ca

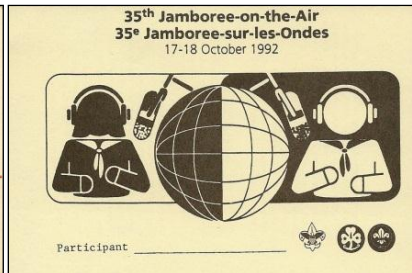
Another Type of Jamboree

The topical collection of Boy Scout and Girl Scout/Girl Guide philatelic items is quite large but presents an opportunity to specialize in some of the numerous sub-topics available. These include areas such as World Scout Conferences, Girl Scout/Girl Guide Camps, Provincial Jamborees, Slogan Cancels and World Jamborees, among others. One of these sub-topics is “JOTA” for “Jamboree on the Air”.

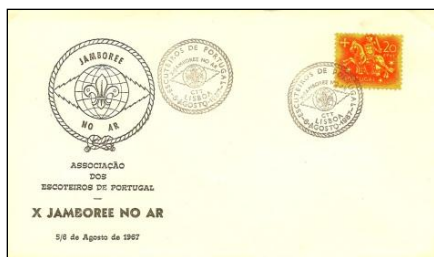


Every year on the third full weekend in October, scouts and guides from around the world link up with local amateur radio clubs or ham operators to contact other scouting counterparts from countries in distant lands. Started in 1957, the 2012 JOTA was on October 20-21. It was the 55th one. In 1996, an additional component was added called “JOTT” for “Jamboree on the Internet” allowing participants to combine both technologies, or to use either separately.

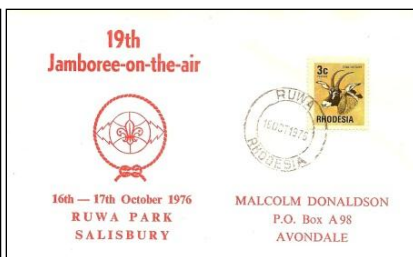
Typically, 750,000 scouts and guides around the world participate, and as long as their group submits a report of their contacts to the World Scout Bureau, each participant receives a “Participation Card”, like these 1961 and 1992 examples.



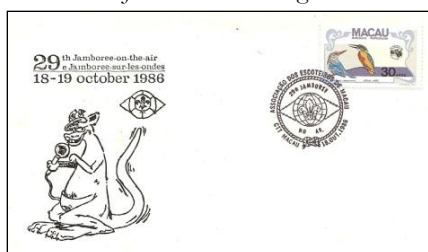
Over the years there have been many philatelic souvenirs from groups participating in JOTA. Well over one hundred JOTA covers have been designed with their own special JOTA cachet and/or JOTA cancellation from various countries on all continents. Some examples are shown below:



10th JOTA 1967 Portugal



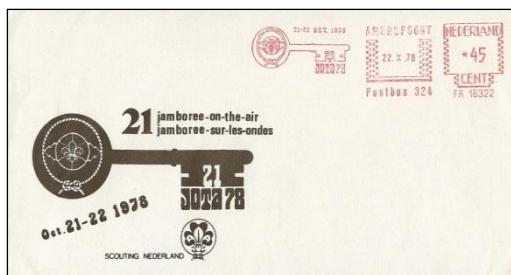
19th JOTA 1976 Rhodesia



29th JOTA 1986 Macao



37th JOTA 1994 Peru

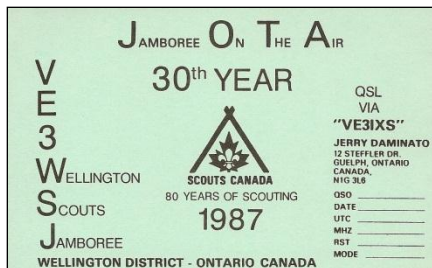


In 1978, the Netherlands created a JOTA logo as an ad in a meter cancellation for the 21st JOTA.

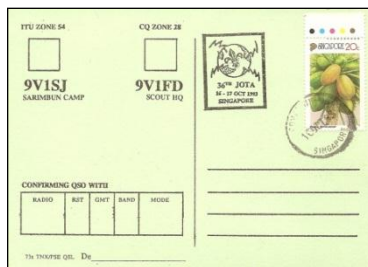
In 1979, JOTA organizers in Austria obtained JOTA advertising on the two layers of selva of a definitive stamp, on both the top and bottom margins.



In amateur radio it is common courtesy to exchange “QSL” cards to acknowledge the successful contact, and several such cards have been created and mailed for that purpose.



VE31XS QSL Card 30th JOTA Guelph



9V1FD QSL Card 36th JOTA Singapore

Finally, we cannot forget the “father” of long distance radio transmission, Guglielmo Marconi. On December 12, 1901 he made the first transatlantic transmission from Cornwall, England to Signal Hill, St. John’s, Newfoundland. Because of that Canadian connection, Canada issued a Marconi stamp on November 15, 1974, shown here with a House of Commons first day meter cancel.



Italy also recognized their famous inventor with a stamp issued on April 14, 1974, exactly 100 years from the day of his birth in Bologna, Italy. It is doubtful that Marconi ever envisaged the 55 years of enjoyable JOTA activity by the youth of the world or of the resulting philatelic interest it generates.

+++++



that you are taking or even about your favourite stamp. It does not have to be a long article, just personal reflections of interest to other collectors. Contact the editor.....

WRITE..... Share your stories with us. Tell us about how you got started in collecting or a change in direction

Unusual Postage Stamps

Jerry Piotrowski

jerrypiotrowski74@hotmail.com

Many countries, Canada included, have been issuing stamps depicting the animals for the Chinese New Year. The 2008 Singapore souvenir sheet issued for the Year of the Rat, when viewed straight on, shows a rat but when tilted a certain way shows the pig of the outgoing year and tilting the other way shows the following year's animal, the ox. The press release described the printing as "A unique printing technique on stamps, namely offset lithography with a highly reflective index transparent hologram with morphing effect". The same technique was used in subsequent Singapore issues showing past, present and future Chinese zodiac animals.

Pictured below is the souvenir sheet along with an outline of where the additional images appear when the item is tilted and their shape.



In the Fall 2011 issue of PhilaJournal I wrote about QR and Upcode coding on stamps which when scanned with an appropriate app on a smart phone would lead to a document or a web site.

I recently read of a third type of coding system called BeeTag (so named because it looks like a honeycomb). It appeared on a Swiss stamp issued October 2007. In this case scanning the BeeTag connected the person to a contest site with a grand prize of a Swiss ski weekend.



Thank you to Peter Butler for forwarding several clippings that he received from Charles Verge. They will be used in future articles in this series.

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.

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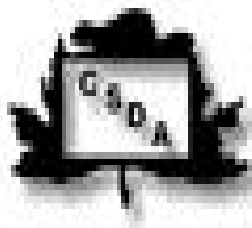
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Theme nights at the Bramalea Stamp Club

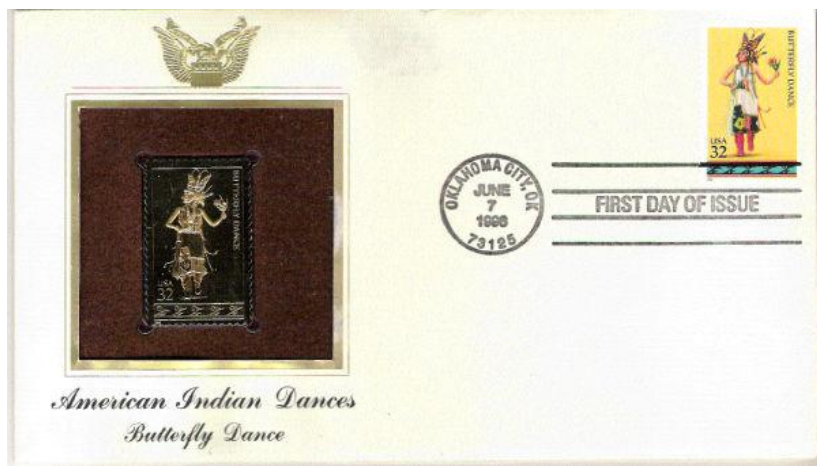
By Jerry Piotrowski

The Tuesday night meetings of the Bramalea Stamp Club usually have a short session involving a previously determined theme. Members are encouraged to bring something from their collection which is relevant to the chosen theme. The items are laid out on a table and then one by one the owner of the item is invited up to briefly describe what he or she has brought and how it fits into that night's theme. The themes have included specific things such as Airplanes, flowers, soccer or more general ones such as colours, numbers or letters. For example the letter E brought such varied items as elephants on stamps, Egyptian stamps, essays and Edinburg postmarks amongst others things.

There are times when the relationship of the item to the theme can be, or has to be, somewhat imaginative. Bob Thorne, for example, has managed to present covers bearing a GB ½ penny Queen Victoria at several theme nights and usually can convince the members how it fits the theme.

Perhaps the most imaginative tie in to a theme was shown at the soccer theme night when a member brought in a copy of Canada catalogue no. 1416 the 1992 Olympic stamp depicting diving, in reference to the practice of some soccer players "taking a dive" to feign an injury when in contact with an opponent.

Covers can tie in well to a theme and often the same cover could be used for several themes. The cover shown here was used by me for the theme "Butterflies" It could easily be used for themes such as First Day Covers, Native North Americans, Dances, Oklahoma City, Stamp replicas on covers or Gold stamps.

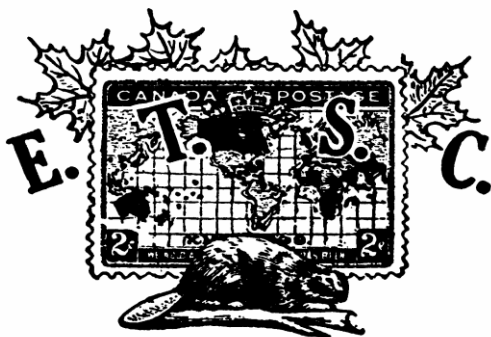


East Toronto Stamp Club 1938-2011

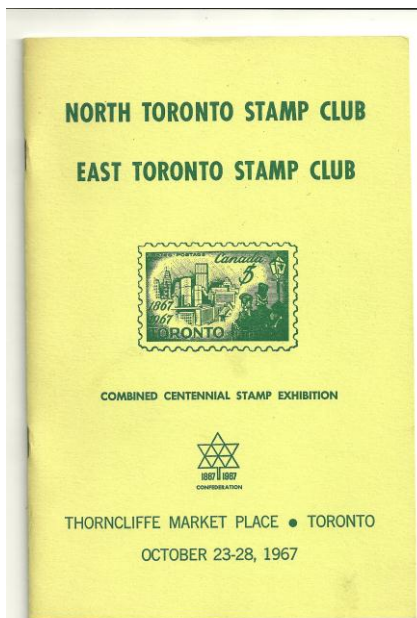
by Susan Butler

Late in 2011, the Greater Toronto Philatelic Alliance received a message from one of its clubs saying, “We’re sorry to announce that due to declining enrollment, the East Toronto Stamp Club has decided to dissolve after a run of over 70 years. Many thanks to all the people who helped the club thrive during most of its history, particularly the late Ray Reakes, its secretary for close to 50 years.”

The club was founded in 1938 when the only Toronto club was the West Toronto Stamp Club. East end collectors felt that it was too far to go to meetings so they put an ad in the paper to attract other area collectors. The first meeting, of twenty potential members, was held at Snell’s Hall at Main and Gerrard on February 11, 1938. C. Alfred Scadding was chosen as president and the Canadian two cent stamp of 1898 with maple leaves and a beaver was chosen as the club’s emblem. A Constitution was drawn up as well as parameters for club meetings, club events, exhibitions and club auctions. In 1952 the club became Chapter 12 of the Canadian Philatelic Society, now the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

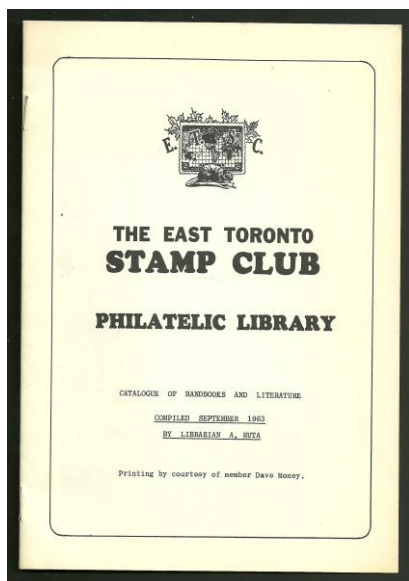


Over the years the membership expanded, an extensive library was developed and many outreach activities were held. Early documents which were shared at a recent GTAPA directors’ meeting, illustrate what a vital club it was. For years members sent exhibits to other club’s exhibitions, held open houses to host other clubs, participated in the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association events and participated for a number of years in the “Arts, Crafts & Hobbies show” at the Canadian National Exhibition. When one looks through the membership lists, newsletter articles and show reports, one reads the names of both past and current GTAPA members.



Some of us will remember the excitement of 1967. Everyone was involved in Centennial Celebrations. ETSC was no exception. They teamed up with members of the North Toronto Stamp Club (also founded in 1938) to present a **COMBINED CENTENNIAL STAMP EXHIBITION** at Thorncliffe Market Place. What an event it must have been! In the Mall there were over 2000 pages of stamp exhibits, sales circuits and a dealers' bourse. There were speakers every evening in the auditorium and there was a Children's Day with "free gifts to junior collectors".

The catalogue on the right was compiled in September 1963 by Librarian A. Ruta. Not only does the booklet include lists of catalogues, books and publications, but also promotes the use of the "Clipping File". Members are informed that the file has thousands of articles going "as far back as fifty years" and that "Many hours of work has gone into this, so make full use of it."



Looking at these documents cause one to wonder what other items might be available. If you have items that help to tell the story of Philately in Canada, why not entrust them to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada Archives that are held at the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation? For more information, contact RPSC archivist and historian, Charles Verge at cjgverge@rogers.com.

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By Mark Stelmachovich



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This year's Florex, hosted by the Central Florida Stamp Club (CFSC), took place at their usual location, Orlando's Central Florida Fairgrounds and Exposition Park. Now that I am retired I am able to spend more time in the Sunshine State so this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to attend this show and bourse. After my involvement with Ukrainpex 2012 this past September in an organizational capacity, I looked forward to a show where my participation was informal.

The three main Florex events were;

- On Friday, the unveiling of the show's Zazzle stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Titanic Disaster, accompanied by a souvenir card upon which to apply it.
- On Saturday. The USPS 'first day of issue' event was held for the 'Waves of Color' stamps, a set of four high value definitive (1, 2, 5, and 10 dollar values).



- Michael Rogers auction was held on Saturday afternoon

On Saturday, the China Stamp Society, Inc., the oldest APS affiliate ©1936, hosted their AGM and the Central Florida's 'German Philatelic Society' and the 'Florida Postal History Society' also held their meetings.

I went to Florex on Saturday to meet up with fellow collector, and Florex exhibitor Paul Spiwak, who had attended, and exhibited, his "zemstvo" material in Toronto. He is a fellow retiree who taught in New York State until his move a few years ago to east Florida. Paul brought along some excellent material to add to one of my exhibits.

CFSC President, Mr. A. Stephen Patrick and Exhibits Chair, Mr. Robert Fisher, did an excellent job of organizing the exhibition., along with other committee volunteers. There were 25 multi-frame exhibits (two were Court-of-Honor, two were non-competitive, and seven were CSS) and 12 single-frame exhibits. The multi-framer exhibits achieved 13 gold, while the single-framers received two gold. Several society awards were also awarded, including seven from the CSS, and one each from the German Society, Rossica and Women Exhibitors.

Florex 2011's top exhibits were honoured, namely Mr. Santiago Cruz's Grand Award winner the 'Columbia- The Department of Antioquia, 1886 to 1904', and Mr. Nicholas M. Kirke's Reserve Grand Award winner 'The Progression of the New York Foreign Mail Cancellations, 1870 to 1878'.

Perusing the exhibits revealed some interesting details. As expected, the majority of the themes related to either the United States or China. I took note of the high volume of page-by-page written text within many of the exhibits, including many of the gold medal winners. some exhibit pages included substantial rates charts with their written text. With over 180 frames exhibited. The judges clearly had a busy time assessing over 180 frames. The judges' critique took place at 2:30. I attended this with Paul. The judge's panel included Chair James Graue, Janet Klug, Anthony Dewey, Elizabeth Hisey and Eliot Landau.

Florex itself has had an interesting history. From 1972 to 1985, the annual event took place in the St. Petersburg-Clearwater-Tampa area. Then they decided to become more central, relocating to Orlando. In 1999, the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs voted to disband, due to a lack of volunteers and the Florex name was acquired by the Florida Stamp Dealers Association regaining its WSP status in 2008.

Assuming that I will be in Florida in 2013, I'll most likely enter one of my exhibits. It is a great show!

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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

Paul Delongchamp paul_delongchamp@hotmail.com

David Goreski 905-579-3349 davidrgoreski@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.org

Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society RPSC Chapter #82

Meets on the 3rd Thursday each month at 5:00 pm

Albany Club of Toronto (3rd floor) 91 King St. E. (King and Church)

Joe Janthur 416-364-4112

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 gsachs@gmail.com

Lloyd Yamada 416-787-9232 slloydyamada@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 Stamp Groups RPSC Chapter #230

The Oshawa/Whitby stamp groups meet 3 times every week
Friday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Legends Community Centre
1661 Harmony Rd. N. Oshawa.

The Whitby Group meets Monday morning 10:30 am to 12:30 at
The Whitby Seniors Building, 801 Brock Street Whitby
and
every Tuesday evening 6 pm to 8:30 pm at Brooklin Community Centre
8 Vipond Rd in Brooklin

Brooklin/Whitby/Oshawa Contacts

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
Brooklin Jim Stevenson 905-576-4449

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
English speaking meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday from 7 pm to 9 pm
Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 West Mall, (Hwy 427 & Burnhamthorpe)
Wieslaw Grzesicki 416-258-1651 info@troyakclub.com
Tom Malicki 905-281-0000
www.troyakclub.com

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
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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.

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 6:30 p.m. for a programme commencing at 7:00 p.m.
Owen White 416-481-4731 owen.white@sympatico.ca

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

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 Chapter #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 falusio@sympatico.ca
Garfield Portch, FRPSC 416-239-0623 gportch@ca.inter.net



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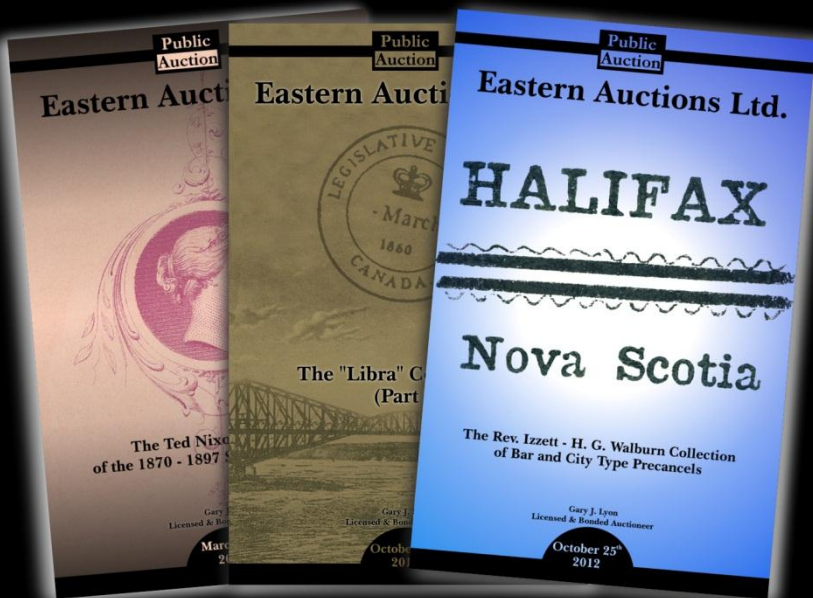
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