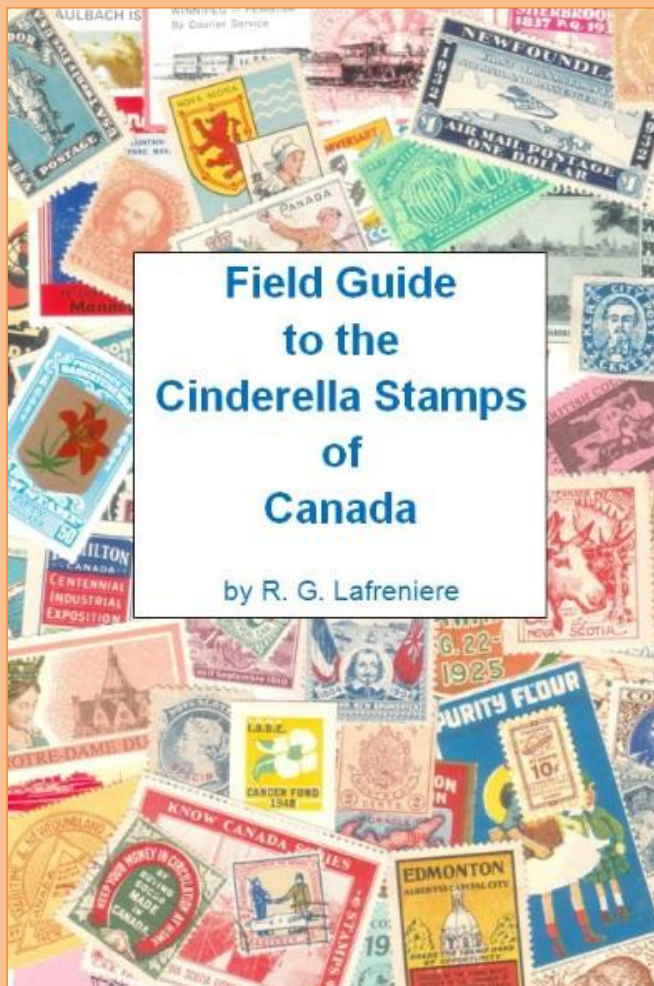


PhilaJournal

www.gtapa.org

Fall 2013

Volume XII Number 1 Whole Number 45 ISSN 1718-2387



***A Field Guide for Birds, Yes!.....but for Stamps?
What's this hobby coming to? Cover story, page 33***

A Philatelic Smorgasbord!



Our stamp auctions always feature hundreds of lots in a variety of sizes. Whether you are looking for a single item 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. In fact, we usually have an entire room full of just box lots! With hundreds of lots each year in all sizes and price ranges, each sale is a *"philatelic smorgasbord!"*

Can't find it in one of our Public Stamp Auctions? Then be sure to look in our Internet Only sales. There's no floor competition, it's strictly internet only with immediate feedback on how your bid stands.

See them both at:

www.johnsheffield.com

John Sheffield Philatelist Ltd.

P.O. Box 81 Stn. Lambeth, London, ON N6P 1P9

Email: john@johnsheffield.com

Welcome to Fall 2013 PhilaJournal

Volume XII Number 1 Whole Number 45 ISSN 1718-2387

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Input	Susan Butler	3
President's Viewpoint	Larry Friend	4
The Machin Corner	Dave Moss	7
Clippings & Commentary	Peter Butler	10
Philatelic Elements	Frank Alusio	12
Coveting Covers	John Wilson	13
Scouts on Stamps	Tony Manson	14
Germania	Jerry Piotrowski	16
Mark Your Calendar		20
Cinderella Philately	Lloyd Yamada	22
Republic of San Marino	Ron Dell'Agnese	31
About the Cover		33
RetroReveal	Michel Houde	34
Club Listings		37

Subscriptions

Non-members may subscribe to PhilaJournal. Annual cost is \$16.00.
Contact Larry Friend. lfriend@sympatico.ca 905-723-8798

Mailing Address

GTAPA Toronto's First Post Office Box 45
260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 1N1

Editor

Susan Butler sbutler@ilap.com 416-690-4666

Advertising

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

Printer

Nova Printing (905) 281-3231
2550 GoldenRidge Rd., Unit 6 Mississauga, ON L4X 2S3

Next Release Date: November 27, 2013 (Items due October 23)

THE GREATER TORONTO PHILATELIC ALLIANCE



MEMBER CLUBS

Ajax Philatelic Society
Bramalea Stamp Club
Fenelon Falls Stamp Club
Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society
North Toronto Stamp Club
North York Philatelic Society
Oshawa Whitby Stamp Groups
Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club
Scarborough Stamp Club
Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI)
Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club
Ukrainian Collectibles Society (Toronto)
West Toronto Stamp Club

OFFICERS

President – Larry Friend
Vice President – Robert Owczarz
Interim Secretary – Tony Manson
Treasurer – Tom Malicki
Past President – Peter Butler, FRPSC

DIRECTORS

Don Beaumont, Zygmunt (Ziggy) Borowski, Jim Carleton,
Doug Cockburn, Ron Dell'Agnese, Bob Hattam,
Joe Janthur, Jerry Kalyn, John Laraway, Lev Levner,
George MacLean, Tony Manson, Ernie Nyitrai,
Jerry Piotrowski, Garfield Portch, FRPSC, Harvey Shuter,
George Sachs, Bob Thorne, FRPSC, Owen White, Lloyd Yamada

MEETINGS

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

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.

The Editor's Input

Susan Butler

sbutler@ilap.com

Summer Reflections !

Summer is over and so now all “good” philatelists get busy searching for bourses to attend, filling up their calendar with local club meeting dates and times, dusting off their want lists, tidying up their albums and networking for some satisfying philatelic experiences.

As expected, I had a wonderful, and very philatelic, summer. The motor trip to Winnipeg to attend the RPSC National Convention was extremely pleasant. We took our time in order to visit used books stores and post offices in some of the smaller towns in rural Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. Crossing Lake Michigan north of Milwaukee cut miles off the trip and spared the driver the headaches brought on by Chicago traffic.



We spent a few days in rural Manitoba with Robin Harris, editor of the Corgi Times, Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps and the Elizabethan II Study Group. Spending time out on the prairie with his lovely young family was yet another positive philatelic spinoff. We visited both of Robin's local (post) mistresses at Seddon Corners

and Beausejour post offices. I think Robin is their best customer!



In July we volunteered at the American Philatelic Centre in Bellefonte, PA. Those GTAPA members who have been there can imagine how exciting it was to spend five days working in various departments. There were forty participants and the choice of tasks suited both experts and neophytes. We had a wonderful time and felt that

our contributions were appreciated by the over-extended staff.

The President's Viewpoint

Larry Friend
lfriend@sympatico.ca

Good News!

Good news! GTAPA has expanded! In June, Peter Butler and I went to meet with the Fenelon Falls Stamp club and to welcome them as members of GTAPA. Here we are with some of the members.



Front row : Marg Allen (past President): Ted Lichacz: Neil Sims: John Hoskin: Maureen McEwan (Secretary): Joanne Young: Cynthia McLennon: Larry: Peter

Back row: Yvan Racine: Lorne Chester: Lloyd McEwan (President): Harry VanOudenaren: Stu Sheppard: Jim Breadner (Vice-President): Isabell Wessell: Wayne Rapp (Treasurer)

Absent: Steve Leask: John Vanderheide: John McEwan: Sandi Antal: John Fredrickson: Joanne Massaar: Mike Hnatiak: Ernie Silhanek.

The Fenelon Falls Stamp Club is an active and progressive club where members are encouraged to participate in a range of activities. Their club nights are well structured with most members attending. They encourage, and look for, guest speakers for their meetings. They were particularly interested in Peter's talk about the One Pager as they are encouraging all members to develop and display one page exhibits.

A program schedule is planned for the year, including a successful Stamp Shows and Sale held every August. FENPEX, which is held in the Fenelon Falls Seniors' Centre is how this group is best known to many GTAPA members who cottage in the area. I was pleased to attend this year's get together.....their 29th. The success of the show illustrates the importance of the support of the membership who share the many show duties.

Welcome, Fenelon Falls members. We look forward to hearing more from you and about your club.

On the evening of May 22, 2013, GTAPA held its Annual General Meeting at the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. I opened the proceedings by welcoming over 30 attendees and having the many guests introduced by their club representatives.



After the items of business and reports, the guest speaker, Ted Nixon, Chairman of the V. Greene Foundation, was introduced by Peter Butler. Ted gave an excellent report on the positive impact that the new technology is having on the expertizing program and on the V. Greene Foundation's involvement and responsibility to the stamp collectors across the country. He also discussed some of the business parameters of the Foundation and its focus over the next year.



Ted is an excellent speaker. Attendees were very impressed and had many questions for Ted at the end of the presentation and during the cake and coffee social that followed.

During the social time voting took place for the best One Page Exhibits that attendees had on display. It was a wonderful evening. Why not plan to attend next year?



THE NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

**POSTAGE STAMP
EXHIBITIONS AND BOURSES**

YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

1585 YONGE STREET, TORONTO

**FALL POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013**

**WINTER POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2013**

**SPRING POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014**

**SUMMER POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014**

**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.

Diversification in Your Machin Collection

I have often found that, through one reason or another, I have become somewhat disenchanted at times with certain aspects of my collecting mania.

I started accumulating stamps as a pre-teenager, and my collecting has varied from one extreme to another. There was a time when I would religiously purchase every new issue that I could afford straight from the local Post Office back in England and also, like many others, my attention was eventually drawn to things anew. Anyway, a few years later, as a family man, I returned to my collecting roots and took up where I had left off. At this time, I took to delving into the myriad of diverse, and yet, repetitious, Machins.

Here is where my disenchantment begins to creep in. Unfortunately no matter how wonderful we feel the design of Machins are, they are basically just one design and basically one stamp can look just like another except for colour and face value.

Concentrating in one type of Machin alone can become an almost full time occupation. For instance, the 1p Machin comes in Crimson and Dark Maroon, although Royal Mail did not regard it as a colour change. They say it was simply a standardization of a wayward colour mixing at the printers, and these colours are somewhat difficult for the average person to distinguish from each other. According to the Deegam Machin Handbook, there are almost 30 distinct types of the 1p stamp and these can be further subdivided into well over 100 variants. Hunting through thousands of 1p stamps for a variant can become a little tedious.

Where or where does one draw the line?

I tackle the job by first sorting where it is easiest, the regular perforations from that of the elliptical perforations. The colour change occurred just before the introduction of that of the elliptical perforations, hence all elliptical perforated 1p stamps are in Dark Maroon. I can then start to sort the distinct types by printing method, phosphor, paper, etc.

To ensure that I keep my interests sustained I have developed several aspects that, although are related, each point of view is different enough that my attention is maintained through these somewhat troubling times. Each one is slightly dissimilar. For example, I have collections of Post Marks both antique and modern and both British and foreign. One aspect of this is the collection of Regional Machins with Post Marks from across that country: for example, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh from Scotland. My British collections cover all six reigns and now also include early items from the colonies. Certain acquisitions have also permitted further diversification into countries that are completely also outside the scope of Great Britain. Should I at any time feel that I am over saturated in one particular aspect, I readily switch to another.

The essence of this article is that to ensure that one does not get bored, you should diversify in your collecting and study to ensure that you have enough variation to keep you totally satisfied.

So until next time good luck and again happy sorting, Dave



Represented by Michael Moffat

The Trophy Centre

RECOGNITION PRODUCTS - ENGRAVING

24 RONSON DRIVE – UNIT 15

(Showroom on Shaft Rd.) Tel: 416-244-2362

Toronto Ont. M9W 1B4 Fax: 416-244-7774

orders@thetrophycentre.ca

\$20.00**DON'T MISS
THIS ONE!****\$20.00*****Summer special: Scandinavia!***

	Scott 2013
* DENMARK: Scarce Giant Size Art Stamps.....	\$17.50
* FAROE: Four Different Bird Complete Used Sets.....	\$11.60
* FINLAND: Beautiful Aurora Borealis Complete Used Set....	\$7.20
* ICELAND: Bird Hi-Value Scott #835, VF Used.....	\$13.50
* NORWAY: Two Complete Used Sets of 2011.....	\$30.50
* SWEDEN: VF Three Complete Used Sets of 2010.....	\$19.80

Total Scott 2013 Value over \$100.10**Plus:** All our Quarterly Stamp Bulletins with philatelic franking during next 12 months**PLUS:** Loads of Pricelists, Special Offers, Coupons, Loss Leaders, Early Birds!**PLUS:** Excellent Free Bonus Program! Regular Promotions!**PLUS:** Over 5,000 Souvenir Sheets in Stock from all Around the World**PLUS:** Coloranos, WWF Covers & Maxi Cards, Scandinavia, Monaco, Germany...!**PLUS:** Excellent Range of Mixtures with New Arrivals!**ALL THAT AND MORE ONLY \$20****POSTAGE, HANDLING & TAX INCLUDED IN CANADA!****Discover why so many Philatelists
Enjoy doing business with Zimo!****Try us, you will be glad you did!****\$20.00**Box 578 Bromptonville Station
Sherbrooke, Qc, J1C 1A1

Fax: 819-846-1881 email: zimostamp@sympatico.ca

\$20.00

The Utility of Lateral Thinking

This column is based on a speech presented to members of the Collectors Club of New York last March by exhibitor, medal winner and judge, Arthur H. Groten M.D. The following paragraphs are excerpts from his presentation. This was a unique presentation because presenters at the Collectors Club usually focus on their highly-researched and specialized collections. The speech was printed in the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitor's newsletter, *Philatelic Exhibitor*, Spring 2013. View the entire talk by going to < <http://www.collectorsclub.org/Videos.shtml>>.

There are stamp collectors who collect only used or mint stamps, only airmail covers or whatever for their own sake. There is absolutely nothing the matter with that. That's the great thing about any collectable hobby. You can do what you want. How much richer is it when you expand your horizons beyond the mere object.

The real story is the context, the reason for its existence. In philately, there are a number of ways to look at the stamp or cover other than as an object to be collected. One of the most often cited reasons for encouraging young folks to collect stamps, is that it is educational. Stamps are created for a purpose, to project the image the issuer wants the world to see. From another point of view, there have been a number of books on the semiotics, the meaning, of the images on stamps. That's one kind of context but stamps, most stamps anyway, are produced to provide a service. What is a letter? A missive to impart information of some sort or another: greetings, love, anger. So the important apart of the letter is the contents, the enclosure that imparts information. But the envelope also imparts information, mourning envelopes, for example. Then there is the stamp that pays the carriage. So which is the most important? That's in the eyes of the beholder but it is humbling when you think about it that way. I maintain that stamps are the ultimate ephemera. Once placed on the envelope and cancelled they have done their job and are essentially worthless, except to collectors. The recipient, if not a collector, usually tosses the envelope and its stamp out. It is the content that is most important. It is the context.

Now let's segue into the unique world of exhibiting. I'm not an expert on exhibiting but suspect that its initial motivation was to share one's collection with a wider audience. I am concerned with its current state. I have exhibited at all

levels, from local to international. The further up the food chain, the more ossified and political the process becomes. We all know this and accept it as the rules of the game. I will accept local exhibiting which, while competitive, is really a social event rather than a pot-boiling one. If you want to compete, you need to play by the rules. Therein is the crux of the problem, as I see it. Many in the audience are judges at various levels and many of us bemoan the increasingly arcane rules. The current Judge's Manual is a masterpiece in obfuscation and frustration; perhaps not to experienced judges but certainly to new exhibitors. Each successive edition reads more and more like a legal document. Each successive edition is, unwittingly, designed to dissuade the novice from entering the arena.

Many articles have been written about the decreasing number of new exhibitors. Indeed, show after show sends out a plea for exhibits. But what have we done? We have defined each class so narrowly as to stifle creativity and frighten off the very new folks we want to entice. The same exhibitors, as always, simply move on to another class for a new challenge.
.....March 2013

I realize that the concept of "Collect what you like" is not new and is seen by many as license to simply follow the mindless pastime of filling in blank spaces in yearly supplements in one's album. It is seen as stamp collecting, collecting 'how', as well as, 'what' you like. When collectors begin to see the enjoyment of research and the thrill of creating new knowledge, the spark has been lit and philatelists are born. Groten's explanation/use of the term context is refreshing and instructive, I think.

Groten's comments about the state of exhibiting could be viewed as a wakeup call to leaders in the philatelic community to take significant steps to encourage philatelists to become beginners in the most exciting aspect of the hobby.....sharing and exhibiting.

Please make the effort to watch the video of the whole presentation. The above excerpts only scratch the surface of a serious "state of the union" address that needs discussion to bring about change.

Peter

Frank Lock, Scarborough Stamp Club

Sadly, Frank Lock passed away during the summer. Frank was well liked and respected by his colleagues in The Scarborough Stamp Club where he held several positions during his many years of membership. He was always volunteering and helping where needed.

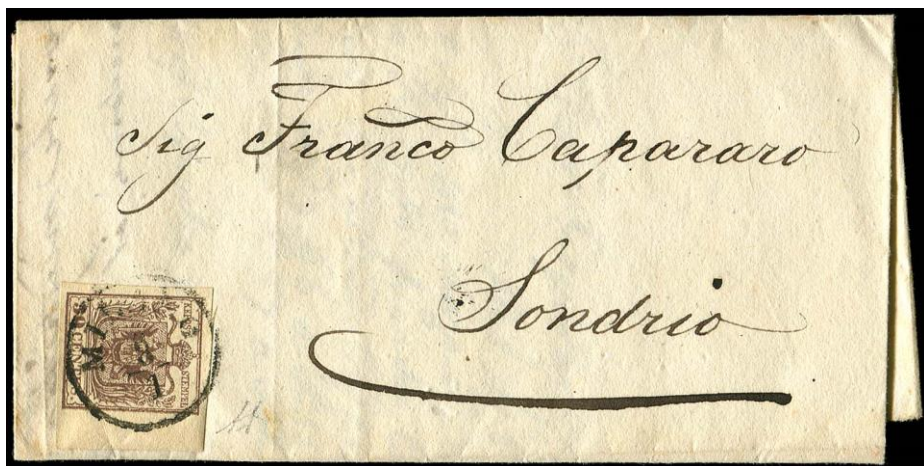
Frank was truly a man who loved his hobby. He will be missed.

What is a Lettersheet?

The term lettersheet has been used to describe the unstamped folded sheet letters used before envelopes became popular. Envelopes were not used much before the second half of the 19th century, because most countries' postal rates calculated for the extra sheet of paper that made up the envelope, thereby increasing the cost of mailing when an envelope was used.

Pre-paid lettersheets issued by postal authorities are postal stationery because they bear imprinted stamps, or indicia that indicate pre-payment, as opposed to adhesive stamps that are only printed by postal authorities.

Lettersheets that require stamps to be applied have also been produced by private firms that usually have no authority for pre-paid indicia, so postage must be paid by normal means at normal postage rates. Most country's postal authorities have issued true lettersheets at some stage. However, most have discontinued their use, except in the form of an aerogram, due to the popularity of envelopes.



1850 Lombardy-Venetia (5) Coat of Arms, 30c Brown, Milan to Sondrio

The lettersheet above is franked with an extremely fine 30c brown stamp with large margins. There is a Milano cancel with a faint Sondrio receiver on back. Signed, A. Diena.

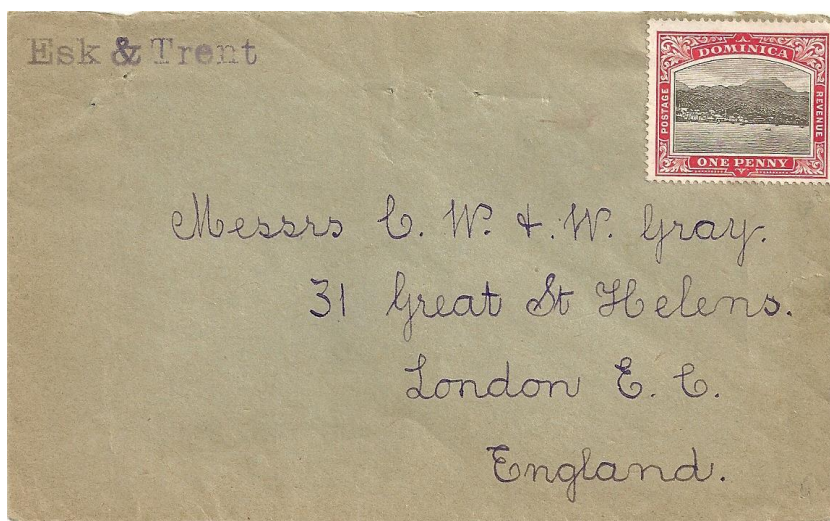
The Odd One Out

Dealers' boxes remain a happy hunting ground for the lover of postal history. Even modern items might turn out to be rarities. In this case, however, it was simply the *look* of this unassuming cover that caught my eye. It was purchased and filed for later analysis.

Edification came at a subconscious level. The handstamp on the left triggered a subconscious Caribbean linkage. *What was it about Esk and Trent?* Rivers...? Good try! The "Esk" was, in fact, a ship which carried mail. So, what could this be?

It was in a Grosvenor Auctions catalogue that I found illustrations of the mates to this cover. I could see the same handwriting, same destination and, in the same hand-stamped type, the routing instructions. The sender was asking for the letter to be conveyed by means of these two mail steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The other covers had had their stamps cancelled by manuscript markings of the ships. This cover had "escaped".

So, my cover has a wonderful postal history background, but its two-dollar price is outgunned by the hundreds of pounds paid by Dominica enthusiasts for the other two (cancelled) examples from the same correspondence.



Major General Daniel Spry:
Soldier, Scouter, Philatelist

Major General Dan Spry was born in Winnipeg in 1913 and achieved the highest scout level of King's Scout as a young boy. He attended Dalhousie University in the early 1930's. He joined the militia in 1932 and after war broke out in 1939 he rose rapidly in the Canadian Army. He became the youngest soldier in the British Commonwealth to be appointed Major General during the war. He served in Italy in the early years and then in the Normandy theatre after D-Day.



Canadian General H.D.G. Crerar (left), Major General D.C. Spry (centre) discuss the plans with Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery for Operation Blockbuster, February 23rd, 1945. (National Archives of Canada PA-129759)

After the war he became Vice-Chief of the General staff of the Canadian Army. In 1946, he retired to accept the position as the Chief Executive of the Canadian Boy Scouts. In 1953, he was appointed Director General of the World Bureau of Scouting in London, England. During a trip to the United States he met some members of SOSSI (Scouts On Stamps Society International). As a philatelist already, he quickly joined SOSSI as member No. 238. When he returned to England he sent out invitations in 1957 to all English SOSSI members to form what became the (UK) Scout Stamp Collectors Club, which still exists.

As Director General of the World Bureau, he came to the 8th World Jamboree at Niagara-On-The-Lake in 1955. SOSSI had just been created in 1951, and so this was the first World Jamboree where they had an opportunity to hold a convention. The Jamboree started on August 18 and the Jamboree stamp was issued on August 20, the official opening day. One day later on August 21, SOSSI's 1st International Convention was held in the old Court House.

Dan Spry was the Guest Speaker and is shown in this photo from the October 1955 *SOSSI Journal*, sitting with Harold Thorsen, Founder & President of SOSSI. Behind them are some frames illustrating designs of the Jamboree stamp, including some rejected 4 cent designs.



Dan Spry went on to serve as Director of SOSSI from 1958 to 1963, and as Honorary director of the UK Scout Stamp Collectors Club. He passed away in Ottawa in 1989.

The Germania stamp: its many uses

By Jerry Piotrowski



The Germania definitive stamps were the longest running series of German stamps. The Germania design was chosen by Emperor Wilhelm II and was engraved by Paul Waldraff. First issued on January 1 1900 the stamp was inscribed "Reichspost" until April 1 1902 when it was changed to "Deutsches Reich". 1922 saw the last printing of the Germania stamp which by this time had been issued in many denominations and in both single and two colour versions. Most were printed on white paper although some issues were printed on colored papers including yellow,

salmon, pink and buff.

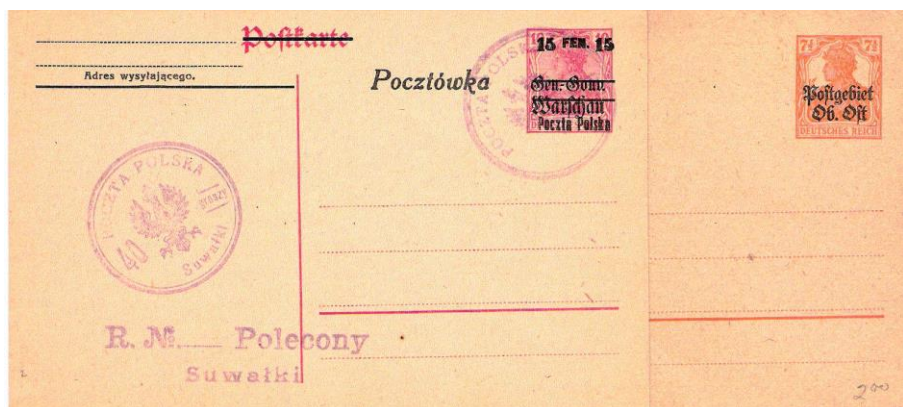
Suitably overprinted, these issues were also used in German offices in China, Morocco and Turkey but Germania stamps were never used in any of the German colonies. During World War One the Germania stamps were overprinted for use in German occupied areas including Belgium, Northern France, Poland, General -Government Warsaw, Lithuania and Romania.



Following the war not only were Germania stamps overprinted and used in Danzig, in the disputed areas of Saar and Memel and in the plebiscite areas of Allenstein and Marienwerder but some occupation overprints were themselves overprinted. In Poland, stamps which had been overprinted “Gen-Gouv. /Warschau” were now overprinted “Poczta Polska” with lines obliterating “Gen-Gouv. /Warschau” and in some cases with a new denomination. The same occupation stamps were also used for preparing locals in over 25 Polish towns.



The Germania design and overprints were also used on postal stationery.



It would seem that this one stamp, in its various denominations, must be the most overprinted stamp.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Membership Benefits include

- *BNA Topics*, quarterly journal
- Annual convention and exhibition
- More than 20 specialized study groups
- Regional groups in many cities
- Generous discount on BNAPS books
- Online sales circuits
- The Horace W. Harrison online library



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 Peter Butler 416-921-2073

COPEX 2013

Cobourg Stamp Club

44nd Annual

Stamp Show & Sale

Saturday, Sept. 28th, 2013

9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Salvation Army Citadel

59 Ballantine St. Cobourg

8 dealers with a wide selection of stamps

Members Stamp Displays

Club and Consignment Sales

Food Court – Door Prizes

FREE ADMISSION

Directions –

From 401 exit #474 – County Road 45(Division Street)
South approx. 1.3 km – (just past Chrysler dealership)
Then 1st right on Ballantine St

For info - please call 905-885-0075 or 289-252-0785



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 10:00 to 4:00

Saturday, November 23, 2013

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto

Yonge Street north of St. Clair

Free admission

Snack bar

Info: Herb at 416-445-7720

COPEX 2013 Cobourg Stamp Club Show and Sale

Saturday, September 28th, 2013 from 9:00 to 3:00

The Salvation Army Citadel, 59 Ballantine Street, Cobourg

Free admission/parking Snack bar Info: 905-885-0075 or 289-

252-0785

Scarborough Stamp Club Show

Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 9:00 to 2:00

Saturday, October 26, 2013

Saturday, November 16, 2013

Cedarbrook Community Centre 2 lights south of Lawrence Avenue
off Markham Road behind Cedarbrae High School

Free admission/parking Info: Rick at 416-778-4175

CSDA Show..... Canadian Stamp Dealers Association

September 27 (11:00 to 6:00, 28 (10:00 to 5:00), 29(10:00 to 4:00)

Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto

Free admission/prizes/many dealers

Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin Stamp Auction

Sunday, October 20, 2013 Viewing at 10:00 Auction 12.30 to 4:00

Conant Seniors Centre at 115 Grassmere Ave. Oshawa

Pizza Lunch available on site Note: Cash only. No buyers' fees

UKRAINEPEX 2013

Ukraine Stamps, Coins and Collectibles Exhibition and Bourse

Saturday, October 26, 2013 from 10:00 to 5:00

Ukrainian Canadian Social Services 2445 Bloor St W, Toronto
(Jane Subway Station)

For more information, email ucst@upns.org

Trenton Annual Stamp Show and Sale

Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 9.30 to 3.30

Trenton Seniors Club "105" at 61 Bay Street, Trenton

Free admission/parking Snack bar Wheelchair Accessible

Info: Guy (613) 394-2024 - Brian (613) 475-2952

Scouts on Stamps Society International



If you would like to find out more about collecting Boy Scout and Girl Guide/Scout philatelic material, please contact Tony Manson at (416) 447-4281 or tony.manson@sympatico.ca.



UKRAINEPEX 2013



**Ukraine Stamps, Coins and Collectibles
Exhibition and Bourse**

Saturday, October 26, 2013

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Ukrainian Canadian Social Services

2445 Bloor St W, Toronto (Jane Subway Station on Bloor Street line)

For all collectors of Ukraine collectibles and anyone interested
in learning more about Ukraine through its collectibles and memorabilia

**A commemorative cover with cachet and personalized picture postage stamp
will be sold at the show**

For more information, email ucst@upns.org

Phantoms: Crete Enslaved

Phantom philately is the investigation of a particular issue of stamps in order to determine whether the stamp is genuine or bogus. Bogus issues resemble postage stamps but they never were used as such, nor were they sanctioned by a recognized government.



The pictorial set, Crete Enslaved, has been investigated in the past. It first appeared in October 1905, purporting to be the official second issue of the Cretan Revolutionary Assembly. Elftherios Venizelos, later the prime minister of Greece, was the prime minister of the rebel assembly. The historical context is needed in order to determine the status of this issue.

In 1897, the Cretan uprising was put down by the Ottoman military but the Cretans continued their demand to be united with Greece. Instead, Crete was occupied and administered by an international military force comprised of Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia. Venizelos' revolt began in the Italian sector in March 1905, and spread to the other sectors where the Cretan gendarmes were unable to contain the armed revolt. The Cretan Revolutionary Assembly proclaimed independence but this government was short-lived. By mid-August, Russian troops, supported by the Italian navy, regained effective control of the island. In November, the surviving rebels retreated to the hills around Therison, where they surrendered.

In 1923, Frederick Melville, the pioneer of phantom philately, investigated the Crete Enslaved Set. The first issue of the assembly, the Victory issue, was announced by an official decree signed by G. Pappajaunaki, president of the assembly. However, Melville was unable to uncover a decree or any mention of the second issue in the official records of the assembly. He was able to discover that the latter set was lithographed in Athens in equal quantities for all values and was made available to the stamp trade in wholesale lots, both mint or cancelled to order. When these forgeries of Crete Enslaved began to appear on the market, Fernand Serrane, the European philatelic specialist from Belgium, published his conclusions in 1927. He determined that the so-called forgeries were reprints from the original lithographic stones. A careful examination of paper, perforation, and detail loss due to normal printing wear, helped to distinguish the reprints from the original issue. The high values, 1 drachma and 2 drachmai King George, can be found imperforate and with colour varieties. Perfectly centered inverted vignettes were made available to delight the unsuspecting collector. Forged cancellations with dates ranging from October 5 to 28 can be found.

I have not examined any original issues on cover although these are known to exist, perhaps for propaganda purposes. Although Gibbons lists the second set, Crete Enslaved, it is clearly a bogus issue which, for the Cinderella philatelist, is both interesting to collect and research.

References:

Phantom Philately, Frederick Melville, 1923. (reprinted 1950) Serrane Guide. Fernand Serrane, 1927. (reprinted in serial form in the American Philatelist beginning 1989)



1240 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, Canada

416-921-7782 – www.paullyspub.com

Join us every Wednesday for Trivia night at 8 pm

Half price pasta Monday evenings

Half price appetizers every day from 4 pm to 6 pm

Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin

Live Auctions for 2013

400+ QUALITY LOTS

Sunday, Oct. 20th, 2013

Conant Seniors Centre

115 Grassmere Ave. Oshawa

Viewing from 10 am – Auction 12.30 - 4 pm

Pizza Lunch available on site

NO BUYERS FEES – CASH ONLY

225+ QUALITY LOTS

Tues. December 10th, 2013

Brooklin Library & Seniors Centre

8 Vipond Rd. Brooklin, Ont.

Viewing from 6 pm – Auction at 7 pm

\$1 donation to Seniors at door

Photos for auctions will be posted on website before each auction

Oshawawhitby-stamp-club.com

Tools of the Trade; Part One

Celestron Microscope Model 44302

By Peter Wood, West Toronto Stamp Club plwood@sympatico.ca



The Celestron 44302 microscope requires a computer using a Microsoft Operating system with a USB2 port. Celestron.com has software available for the Apple operating system at no extra cost. Included with the microscope is the stand, a CD to install software and a short manual. I have purchased over 70 units of the 44302-A from B & H Photo in New York City, and then sold them at my cost to various stamp club members that I have visited here in the

GTA over the last year. Interested persons can email me for a 5 page manual with ALL of the variations I have found.

In the “Menu” Bar under “File” are several options. One can alter the size of the image, the location of where the files are kept, as well as, changing such items as the number of pictures in “Burst” – stop action mode. One advantage of this microscope is its hands free operation. Once the software is installed and the microscope assembled you can see as much, or as little, of a stamp as you desire. I found it easiest to focus on a stamp about a 2 cm., or 1 finger width, off a stamp then once focused you can very quickly go through a large volume of stamps, different or identical, looking for whatever you desire.

A second advantage is the ability to see the computer image in 3 different sizes. The first is seen when the software is opened, a rectangle about 14 by 19 cm. As is common with most software, by clicking on the box in the upper right-hand corner of the menu bar a larger screen is available. What is unusual is a third size, a full screen image. It is available by clicking on the small square box at the bottom of the screen with the diamond in the center. Your computer “escape” key takes you back to the second size. Full screen is especially useful to see such items as micro-printing.

A third advantage is you can take pictures of those stamps of interest to you. There are several choices for doing that. All images are jpeg and are sequentially named from image 1 on up to image 65535 where it recycles back to image 1 again. No existing image is overwritten. Even though you are able to delete any image, the next consecutive number is used. In other words, if you are at image 10 and delete image 5, the next picture is image 11. All images can be renamed and sent in any format. You can create your

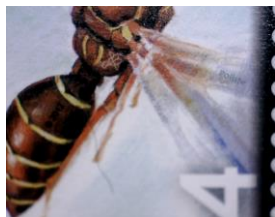
own albums and import jpeg images from other sources, such as a scanner. All images default to a directory called “Microscope Media”.



A fourth advantage is the built in measuring device, a ruler, as can be seen in the icon “ruler” at the bottom right corner of your screen. The ruler requires the microscope to be placed directly on top of the stamp. Due to quality control variances, it is highly recommended that the ruler function be first checked against an actual ruler.

Be aware that the plastic insert is “keyed”. The center slot goes in where the “o” in micro is on the outer ring, not the “o” in scope. In that position the maximum distance that can be measured is 8mm. To measure a greater distance raise the microscope until the area you wish to measure can be seen on your computer. If the arm on the microscope stand is not adequate, simply place the stand on a firm object such as a book and focus the image until you can see the area you wish to measure. With this device only straight lines can be measured, no curved lines. There are more complex methods in my manual. Simply send me an email to receive them.

Inside the open end of the microscope are two nuts on bolts. On the outside of this “open” end is the word “microscope”. By loosening, or removing, the nut closest to the “e” in microscope you turn off the six LED’s, but not the camera. This allows you to take pictures without the light from the LED’s or using your UV light to show up other differences as in tagging.



Look at this scanned image from the Beneficial Insects Souvenir Sheet. With the LED’s on (top figure) you can easily see the insect names and the extra images as supplied. The second picture, taken with the LED’s off reveals the year on the body.



This microscope has many other advantages that I will be outlining in the next issue of the PhilaJournal.

Until then, if you have any questions, contact me at plwood@sympatico.ca.

October is Stamp Collecting Month

Start the celebration at the

NATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP SHOW

September 27, 28, 29, 2013

Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place

Friday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.;

Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Dealers from Canada, United States and the United Kingdom

Free Admission

Free Stamps For Kids

Draw Prizes

*TTC and Go Train Stops
on Exhibition Place Grounds*

**We can sell your
Canadian or foreign
cover & stamp collections
on consignment
for the nominal fee of 10%**

**No collection too small
Cash advances available**

(Please enquire before forwarding material)

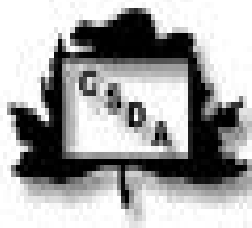
R. F. (Hank) NARBONNE

FRPSC, OTB

Telephone: 613-257-5453

Toll-free: 1-800-247-5619

**GREENWOOD STAMP COMPANY
SINCE 1962**



**136 Morphy Street
Carleton Place, Ontario
K7C 2B4**

Certificate of Merit – Sydney Griffin

At the May meeting of the Maple Leaf Chapter, SOSSI in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Chapter President, Tony Manson presented a GTAPA Certificate of Merit to Sydney Griffin.



Syd has been a long time collector of Scout stamps and an active member of SOSSI since joining in 1986. He served as the Maple Leaf Chapter Treasure for 21 years (1988-2008).

In 1996 he also accepted the appointed position of Editor of the monthly **Maple Leaf-Let** Bulletin. He recently had to resign because of his health, but in the 17 years as Editor he issued a 10-page professional and interesting Bulletin each month. He continues to help in a support role. His eagerness to volunteer and provide outstanding support to the Chapter is well respected by all members. Congratulations, Syd!

ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE



Are you protected?

Stamp Insurance from **Hugh Wood Canada Ltd.**
Could be your answer

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS CALL 416-229-6600

HUGH WOOD CANADA LTD.

4120 Yonge Street #201 - Toronto, Ontario, M2P 2B8

Postal Covers Wanted

with clear **"BOMBAY"** Cancellations - from India Between 1885 & 1914

"SEA POST OFFICE"

to international destinations only

"TRAVELLING POST OFFICE"

(used North East Line only)

Stamps

Government of India

Telegraph Stamps - 1881 Provisionals - for 1, 3 & 4 Anna only

(like image shown below)



Contact - Denzil by email at fernandes11@rogers.com

Republic of San Marino

by Ron Dell'Agnese, Scarborough Stamp Club



San Marino is the world's third smallest country, being less than 40 square miles in size. It is entirely within Italy, and about 20 miles from the Adriatic Sea. The City of San Marino is the capital and stands 2,000 feet high atop Mount Titano. Dominating Mount Titano are three ancient towers which are featured on many of San Marino's stamps.

The country's motto is "Libertas" as it has been independent for 17 centuries and can claim to be the oldest state in Europe. The treaty of friendship with Italy was renewed in 1939.

San Marino was founded by and named after St. Marinus in the year 301. He bequeathed the land to his followers with the admonition never to enlarge the territory by warfare or violence. The main exports are cattle, wine, the building stone still quarried on Mount Titano and probably, stamps.

The archives of San Marino contain a letter received from Abraham Lincoln who replied to a letter of encouragement sent to him during the Civil War. Lincoln wrote “Although your dominion is small, your state is nevertheless one of the most honoured in history”. Because of this, a Lincoln memorial was placed in the government palace and two special souvenir sheets were issued in 1937, quoting a part of Lincoln’s letter.



The first stamps issued by San Marino portray the 3 ancient towers. The set consists of 28 stamps, the first issued on Aug. 1, 1877, with new denominations issued regularly till 1899. The stamps were valid for postage till April 15, 1903. Some of the denominations had only a small printing (3,000 copies), consequently are very hard to find and quite expensive.

The second set, also picturing the three towers, was also issued over a number of years, starting on April 1, 1903 and continuing until September 1927, consisting of 46 stamps. Some of these also had very low printings (the 2 lire violet had a printing of only 6,200 copies).

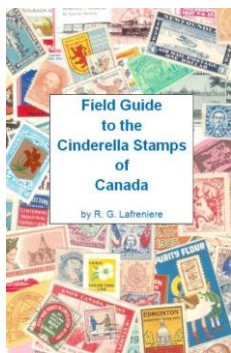


San Marino takes pride in having sheltered the Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi, who when pursued by enemies, took refuge in San Marino in 1849. A set of 5 stamps portraying Garibaldi were issued 75 years later on September 25, 1924.

If you visit northern Italy, a stop in San Marino should be on your itinerary.

Cover Story:

Finally, a “catalogue” of Canada’s Cinderellas



The cover of this issue shows one of the most valuable, and recently-published, catalogues for collectors who find themselves looking at “stamps” that are not in traditional catalogues. It is the kind of stamp, label, etiquette or whatever, that you cannot identify. Other collectors aren’t much help so it goes into one’s “banana box” and is forgotten about or sold at the next club auction for 25¢ with no indication of what it is. Occasionally, you read in a philatelic magazine, a Letter to the Editor asking for help in identifying the item submitted.

This new book has come to the rescue! *A Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada* was published a year ago by Bird Bear Press in Verdun, Québec and written by R. G. Lafrenière. In his preface, he states that every stamp has a story to tell and this is especially true of Cinderellas.

The simple definition of a Cinderella is that it is a stamp that is not a postage stamp. This includes any number of stamp-like items produced by different issuing entities for various purposes. They are fun for collectors, interesting for the hobby but frustrating for the non-specialist. While regular stamp production is limited to certain issuing authorities, usually a government or a country, Cinderellas can be issued by any number of private companies, even individuals, producing a limitless number of possibilities, far too many to be organized for the production of catalogues. That is why Lafrenière has used the term, Field Guide to describe his publication. By no means is his book complete. It is not intended to be and he asks collectors, if they have Cinderellas not included in his guide, to send information and scans to him for a future edition.

Just to whet your appetite, here is a partial list of categories from the Table of Contents; Dated Event Stamps, Exhibition Stamps, Corporate Advertising Stamps, Propaganda Stamps, Charity Stamps, Fantasy Stamps, British Monarchy Stamps and, of course, Others! 234 pages of fun!

If you don’t feel you want to purchase the book, why not ask your stamp club to buy a copy? It will quickly become the most popular library book on the shelves. The cost directly from Bird Bear Press is \$40.00 plus postage. Contact them at (www.BirdBearPress.com.)

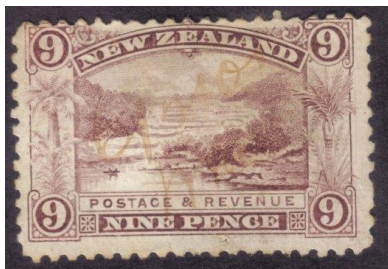
Analyze Your Philatelic Images with retroReveal by Michel Houde, Philatelic Specialists Society

The University of Utah hosts a free online service called retroReveal Channel Inspector that does image analysis. I find it useful for revealing cancellations, obscure markings and faint writing.

Go to [www.http://retroreveal.org/](http://retroreveal.org/) and upload your image of a stamp, document, photo, etc. and it is transformed, in a matter of moments, from the standard red, green, blue (RGB) into over 50 images in what they call colourspaces. You then download the ones that shows best what you are interested in seeing.

I can do something similar using my image editing software [PaintShop Pro] but get only 10 transformations from an RGB image. Note that retroReveal is free but you must first register then login each time.

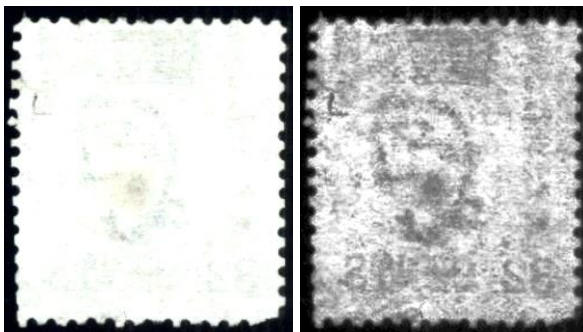
Here are some images that have been processed by retroReveal. Some are copied from the public space on the website and a few of mine. The original is on the left and my pick of the best processed image is on the right.



Faint pen writing is emphasized.



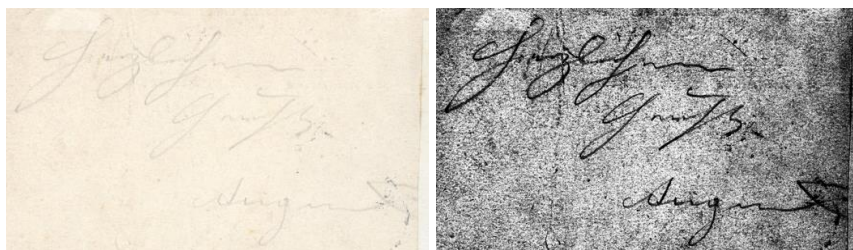
Cancellation is emphasized on middle image. The cancellation is removed on the far right image allowing the stamp underneath to be studied.



Watermark is emphasized



Embossing is emphasized



Faint writing is emphasized

Great news!
PhilaJournal is getting a new look In 2014!
We are adding more colour to the PhilaJournal.

ANNUAL
**** TRENTON STAMP SHOW ****

Saturday, Nov. 9th, 2013

9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Trenton Seniors Club “105”

61 Bay Street – Trenton

Sponsored by
Trenton Stamp Club

Free Admission and Parking

Wheelchair Accessible – Refreshments Available

10 Dealers – Exhibits – Draws

Ongoing Table Auction

Additional Info

Guy (613) 394-2024 – Brian (613) 475-2952

Driving directions – from 401 (exit #526) south on Sydney St.
Follow Sydney around – to Byron then turn right – then left on
Bay St. – Seniors Building – south east corner Campbell and Bay

From Hwy #2 – (Dundas St. E.) – south on Campbell St. to Bay

GTAPA CLUB DIRECTORY

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

Fenelon Falls Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #176

Meets on the second Monday of each month (except August and October) at 7:00 pm at Immanuel Baptist Church Hall, 20 Bond St. E. Fenelon Falls (East off Colbourne St.)

President, Lloyd McEwan 705-324-7577 or 705-341-4577

lmcewan@sympatico.ca

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 sloydyamada@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

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

SOSSI, MAPLE LEAF CHAPTER

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) in Toronto and southwest Ontario locations.

The Program for the 2013/2014 season is: Sept. 15 Etobicoke/Oct 20
Kitchener/Nov 17 Etobicoke/Jan 19 Etobicoke/Feb 16 Etobicoke/Mar
16 Hamilton/Apr 27 Belleville Scout House and Museum/May 25 Niagara
Falls

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

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

Are you unhappy with your club's listing above?

Just email, or call, me. Susan

416-690-4666 sbutler@ilap.com .



Looking for an exciting way to buy stamps?



For over 40 years, collectors and dealers around the world have discovered that bidding in our auctions is easy, productive, and fun! We offer a wide variety of worldwide stamps and postal history every 7 weeks featuring:

- ★ Canada & Provinces
- ★ United States
- ★ Gr. Britain
- ★ Br. Commonwealth
- ★ Foreign
- ★ Singles and Sets
- ★ Covers & Postcards
- ★ Errors & Proofs
- ★ Collections
- ★ Stocks & Box Lots

Write, call or e-mail today for a free colour illustrated catalogue of our next sale, or go directly to our web site:

www.vanceauctions.com

VANCE AUCTIONS LTD.

P.O. Box 267

Smithville, Ontario, Canada L0R 2A0



Telephone: 905-957-3364 Fax: 905-957-0100

mail@vanceauctions.com

YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO BUY YOUR STAMPS!

Canadian Provinces



Newfoundland



Back of Book



Fancy Cancels



Proofs



Superb Quality Stamps

Admirals

Revenues

We are actively buying Worldwide and British Commonwealth stamps, collections, dealer stocks, complete estates, etc. When you are ready, please call toll free 1 (800) 667-8267.

We also offer reliable and efficient auction services through our sister company **Eastern Auctions Ltd.**

Gary J. Lyon (Philatelist) Ltd.

P.O. Box 450 - Bathurst - New Brunswick - E2A 3Z4 - Canada

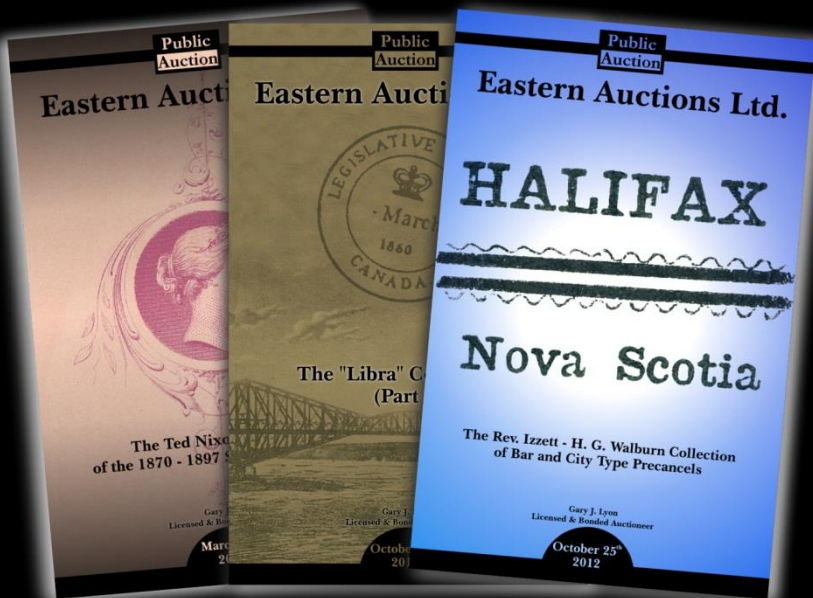
Phone 1(506) 546-6363 - Fax 1(506) 546-6627

Email glstamps@nb.aibn.com - Website www.garylyon.com

Member of: ASDA - CSDA - IFSDA - PTS - APS - RPSC - BNAPS - CPSofGB - PHSC

Eastern Auctions Ltd.

Would like to showcase your collection.



Canada's most trusted auction house

Since 1980 we have steadily built a reputation for outstanding realizations. Numerous record prices have been achieved for superior quality stamps.

Take advantage of our friendly and professional service. Your collection will be described by our expert lotterers and lavishly illustrated in our deluxe catalogue. Commission rates are very competitive and prompt payment is always guaranteed.

Contact us today for further details.



Eastern Auctions Ltd.

P.O. Box 250 - Bathurst - New Brunswick - E2A 3Z2 - Canada

Telephone 1(800) 667-8267 - Fax 1(888) 867-8267

email easternauctions@nb.aibn.com - website www.easternauctions.com