

# *PhilaJournal*

*www.gtapa.org*

*Winter 2014*

Volume XIII Number 2 Whole Number 50 ISSN 1718-2387

**“Remember to write that letter home!”**



**Sending Greetings Home  
Christmas 1914**



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# **Welcome to Winter 2014 PhilaJournal**

**Volume XIII Number 2 Whole Number 50 ISSN 1718-2387**

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## **Subscriptions**

Non-member subscriptions: \$20.00 (4 issues including postage) Contact  
Larry Friend. [lfriend@sympatico.ca](mailto:lfriend@sympatico.ca) 905-723-8798

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February 18, 2015 (Items due to editor by January 21, 2015)

# THE GREATER TORONTO PHILATELIC ALLIANCE



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## MEETINGS

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

### Another Philatelic Season

It has been another busy autumn for us both at home and in the local philatelic community. The phone is ringing, emails are clinging, boxes are going in and out, clubs are calling, programs getting arranged, bourses hosted. We love it all!



Each year Peter and I begin the season by volunteering to make the lunches at the North Toronto club's September bourse. It is the perfect way for us to get back in touch. Also we have time to chat with collectors.....one of our favourite pastimes. The Yorkminster Park Baptist Church venue even has a comfortable seating area and free newspapers for folks who need coffee and a break from the busy dealer floor, club circuit books and 5 & 10 cent books.

By the time you read this, the holiday season parties will be in full swing. I hope to see some of you there. We attend as many as we can for both the food and the fellowship. My favourite events actually have non philatelic door prizes!

I hope that you will enjoy this issue of the PhilaJournal. Thank you to our contributors who wrote articles on the World War I theme.



Isn't this a terrific photo? I love to see well lit, room-to-walk-around frame sets ups. This was taken at the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association Annual Grand Fair in October.

Jim Carleton, from the Scarborough Stamp Club, is explaining the one frame club competition to his wife Nancy.

## **Important Questions**

Would you like to put your spare accumulations and extra stamps in the hands of other collectors?

Would you like to clear out your stamp room/den/corner to make space for new albums with new interests?

Would you like to earn some money to enhance your existing collections or other philatelic collecting areas?

If the answer to these questions is "Yes!", then read on because you need to know the value of participating, or organizing, a club auction.

I observed an excellent example at the recent Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin club auction. A member of both the Kawartha and Fenelon Falls stamp clubs contacted them about several shoe boxes loaded with sorted and unsorted accumulations of Canadian stamps that were taking up valuable space in his stamp domain. For a small lot fee he put his boxes in the auction. His lots sold well, making him a happy man with new found space in his stamp den as well as extra cash.

Another success story from this auction was about a representative of the Trenton Stamp Club who came to purchase lots, with club funds, to be shared by their club members. What an excellent use of club funds, as well as, a new source of stamps for Trenton Club members.

In fact, there were several lots contributed to the auction by members of eight other clubs. By adding material from other clubs a wider variety of material is made available which, in turn, enhances the hosting club members' choices.

Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin club members pay \$1.00 per lot and a \$2.00 fee is charged for non-club members. This low fee keeps the cost to the sellers as low as possible and encourages participation.

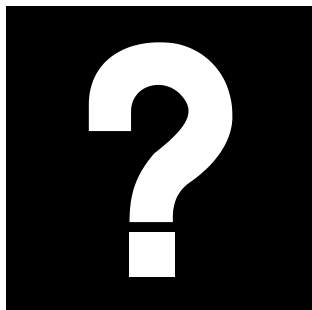
It is also important to encourage contributors to start their lots with reasonable (low) bidding prices. This helps to encourages multiple bids and sets a tempo that keeps all bidders interested and active.

Proper advertising is a must for a successful event. Use several methods. I

suggest the GTAPA web site, flyers to surrounding clubs and email lists. It is also important to have a sufficient number of lots (375 or more) to attract bidders. The Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin club auction regularly attracts 100 plus bidders and 45 lot sellers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information or help in organizing an auction for your club. Larry at 1-905-723-8798.

\*\*\*\*\*



## **INFORMATION PLEASE**

### **Are you an American Topical Association (ATA) member?**

GTAPA is the ATA's Chapter and affiliate member No.109.

The cost to us is \$40.00 US per year.

To receive **FREE** membership we need to provide ATA with at least 6 names of individual ATA members from any GTAPA Club.

Please forward your name and town/city to

**tom.malicki@gmail.com.**

This information will only be disclosed to ATA for verification. Your membership number or full address are not required.

### **Are you an American Philatelic Society (APS) member?**

GTAPA is the APS' Chapter member No.1555-208899.

The cost is \$44.25 US per year.

We have been a member since 2006! We would like to apply for an **Affiliate Membership**, but we need names of at least 10 individuals who are APS members from any GTAPA Club.

Forward name and membership number to

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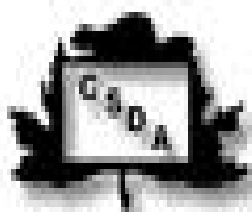
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## Military Free Franking

In keeping with this issue theme “World War I”, my philatelic element this time is dedicated to the Great War of 1914-18 by way of an Italian Military Free Franking Postcard.

The 1959 movie “The Great War” puts in evidence the enormous importance of the postal role in this wartime period. During this time, the Italian soldiers kept in contact with the family by writing. They did it when they could curl up in the trench, in the resting moments, in the long waiting hours between a military action, as well as, in the long sleepless nights, when anguished from the fear of an unexpected enemy attack.

To write, however, they had to utilize appropriate postcards supplied by the Italian Royal Army, distributed by the military structure and validated with the unit postmarks having the date and the military post office. Initially, militaries were entitled to receive three postcards per week. Later, they were increased to seven.

They were so called “Free Franking postcards” because they were exempt from postal fee.



The front of the postcard was pre-printed and had appropriate spaces reserved for the sender and the addressee. On the back, which was blank, the soldier could write the message text to send to the recipient.

These official military free franking postcards are easily identified by having at least one of the following wordings, “Cartolina postale in franchigia” (Free franking postcard), “R. Esercito” (Royal Army) or “Zona di Guerra” (War Zone).

This card was sent from the war zone on October 3, 1916 by Captain Rocco Alessandro of the 139° Infantry Regiment, 4th Division addressed to Pietro Rossotto in Turin. It is post-marked by the MILITARY POST, 4th DIVISION.

On the blank side, (rear) the author wrote a simple phrase: “2-10-1916, *Saluti a tutti, mille affettuosi baci*” (Greetings to all, thousand affectionate kisses).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Scouts on Stamps

Tony Manson

tony.manson@sympatico.ca

### Czech Scout Post - 1918

As the end of World War I was drawing to a close, the allied leaders were meeting to redefine the country borders within Europe. At that time there was no country called Czechoslovakia ... that area was just part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. However, a large movement was formed in Prague which declared itself the National Committee for the creation of a Czech country. Their leader, Thomas Masaryk, was out visiting the allied leaders to get their support. He even met with President Wilson in the U.S.A.

By October 1918 it appeared that the leaders would be successful and so they started to plan and set up various government departments. They soon realized that mail communication between the Committee, police and other departments was crucial. Yet their new Post department was not ready. So in October they contracted with the Boy Scout Association to set up a system for the delivery of mail from November 7 to 25 in Prague. This was formalized in National Committee Service Order # 324R.



They printed two stamps – 30,000 of a blue 10h value, and 50,000 of a red 20h value. At the top was printed “Posta Ceskych Skautu” for Czech Scout Post. A number of different cancels were used.

The three main ones are shown below: a round NV (standing for National Committee), a round one with “Posta Skautu/Praha 1918” and a place to write the day/month, and a third one in two lines indicating “Received from Boy Scout ... by .....”.



Dopis od skauta \_\_\_\_\_  
převzal: \_\_\_\_\_

The example on the next page shows a cover with all three cancels in use. The addressee would remove the contents of the envelope. The Scout

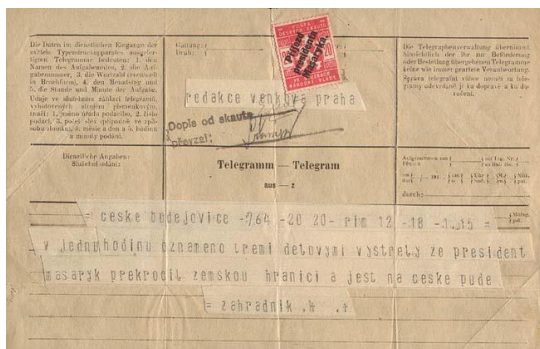


would take the envelope back to the postal hub to prove delivery and have it entered into a ledger



On December 21 now-President Masaryk arrived back from his journeys and was given a tumultuous welcome in Prague.

For that day only, 600 of the 10h stamp and 1000 of the 20h stamp were overprinted (translated) “Arrival of President Masaryk”. A few of these were applied to Telegrams for delivery in Prague, as shown below. The most treasured one is from Masaryk’s son, Jan, to his mother in Prague saying “Dad is in good health, approaching the border”.



All related stamps, dies, ledgers and cancellers were placed in the National Philatelic Archives. During World War II, that building and its archives survived amongst the destruction all around it. In 1968 there was a “Spring Revolt” in Prague seeking more democratic liberties. The government agreed to many, including the resurrection of Scouting, which had been prohibited in the Communist regime after WWII. That year also was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Czech Scout Post, and so a number of scouting covers were produced, with modified replicas of the 1918 cancels. One such cover is shown on the next page.





Within a few months Russia believed the Czech government had gone too far and they entered Prague with tanks shelling numerous targets. This time the National Philatelic Archives was totally destroyed with all its contents. Once more scouting was banned, until the fall of the Communist regime in 1989.

There are still some pro and con arguments about the classification of these two stamps. Some say they are basically a private mail service. Some argue they were authorized by the official government. As a result, Stanley Gibbons list them as #1 and #2 for Czechoslovakia. Scott does not mention them. Either way, they have become a very extensive and interesting study in the philatelic community.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Italy and World War I

During World War I, Italy fought mostly against Austria/Hungary, and mostly in northern Italy near the northern border. The fighting was basically over territorial lands which belonged to Austria – Trieste, Istria, Zara and Dalmatia.

There were a number of significant battles fought – Isonzo (eleven battles), Caporetto, Mount Ortigaro – where Italy lost over 600,000 men. The final battles were at the Piave River and Vittorio Veneto where Italy was finally victorious.

In 1921, Italy issued 4 stamps to commemorate the third anniversary of the victory of the Piave River and Vittorio Veneto. Each value of this set was later (in 1924) surcharged. Only 90,000 sets of the surcharged stamps were printed.

The original set catalogues in Scott at around \$11.00 mint and \$20.00 used. The surcharged set catalogues around \$85.00 mint and \$1,000.00 used, although forgeries of the surcharge exist.

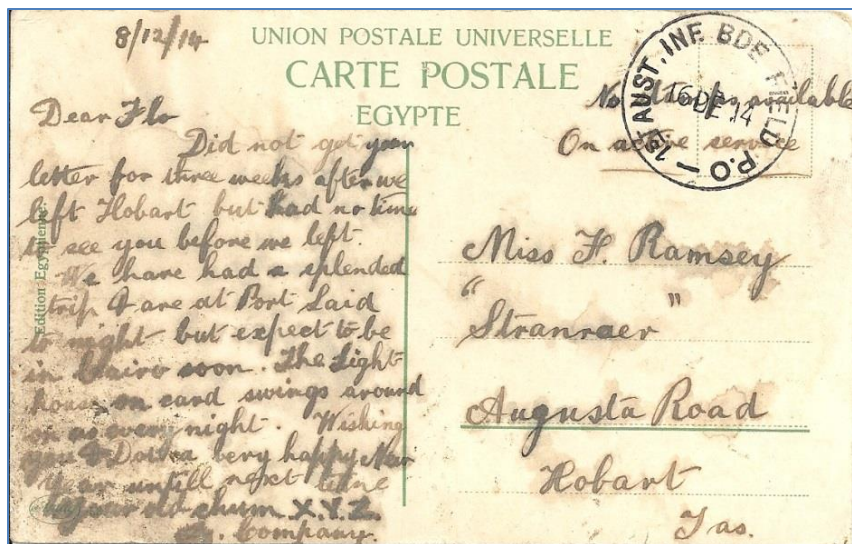
The statue on the stamps shows Victoria which is in the museum of Brescia, Italy.



## An Appointment with History

In an auction lot purchased several years ago there was a little cache of correspondence from the beginning of the First World War. Three of the postcards are presented here. They show a little insight into the launching of the Australian Infantry Force and Light Mounted Horse Regiment, raised after August 15, 1914, and sent out to serve in the war about six weeks later. Initially about 18,000 men were enrolled but eventually 331,814 Australians served. Fully 13% of white Australian males enlisted, all volunteers; of these 64% suffered wounds or were killed in action.

The earliest postcard is somewhat battered but clearly it was sent from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade Field Post Office, indicated through an abbreviated cancel dated December 16, 1914. The writer has recently arrived in Port Said, Egypt, and mentions that he had departed from Hobart, Tasmania. The card notes, "No stamps available/On active service". The signature is coy – "Your old chum X.Y.Z. (blot) Company" (an "A" seems to have been crossed out). The First Brigade was raised from August 15, 1914, based in Sydney, New South Wales.



The second card is undated by the sender but has some interesting features; the card was bought in Aden, but the place-name is obliterated on both

sides of the card – with a pencil! It bears the correct annotation, “No stamps available” in a diagonal box at the upper left, and is countersigned by an officer, a certain “J.F.R./Capt.”. The message mentions censorship, too: “I am still unable to give you any news still I can save it all up and one of these days I shall be able to let you have all the story in one.” The sender was a Pvt. J. Louis, who gives his enlistment number. To date, I have been unable to locate him on regimental lists. This postcard received a different (undated) handstamp, a boxed “A.I.F./Post Free” marking. On arrival at Brisbane, it received a censorship clearance dated 19 March 1915.



The third of the three cards is the most evocative. Postmarked “Military Camp” near Cairo, and dated May 8, it was written by someone serving with the Second Light Horse Regiment to his mother in Brisbane. He says, “At last we are leaving. We move today and hope to be amongst the Turks in a few days.” Though not posted as a privilege letter – it has an Egyptian stamp -- this postcard, too, is cleared by a Brisbane censor marking of 9 June 1915.

Indeed, the writer was soon to be among the Turks. The Light Horse left their mounts in Egypt, having volunteered to fight as infantry; they were at Gallipoli on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, where they stiffened the line after the bloody repulses of late April, when the ANZAC corps made its reputation. There is no evidence in the military records I have been able to find that any serviceman named Prosser perished in the bitter fighting at Gallipoli, or in later actions when the Australians defended the Suez Canal against a Turkish force and then counterattacked all the way to Beersheba in Palestine.



10222  
 THE CAIRO POSTCARD TRUST - CAIRO

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**Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 10:00 to 4:00**

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto

Yonge Street north of St. Clair

Free admission

Snack bar

Info: Herb at 416-445-7720

## **Scarborough Stamp Club 2015 POSTAGE STAMP SHOWS**

**Saturdays from 9:00 to 2:00**

**January 3/24, February 14/28, March 7/28, April 11/18, May 9/30, June 13/27**

Free admission – 4 to 8 dealers - Club and 5-10¢ books

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

## **BURLOAK Monthly Stamp Show**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, all year from 9:00 to 2:00**

Saturday, December 20, 2014

January 17, February 21, March 21 and April 18, 2015

Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca), Burlington

Free admission and parking Info: 905-575-2950 (bas6@bell.net)

## **UNIPEX TORONTO Stamp & Coin Show**

**Friday, January 16 (10:00 to 6:00), Saturday, January 17 (10:00 to 5:00), Sunday, January 18 (10:00 to 4:00), 2015**

Toronto Plaza Hotel 1677 Wilson Ave. (HWY 400/401)

Free Admission/Parking

T.T.C. to the door

More info: 416-242-5900

## **CATHEX St. Catharines Annual Exhibition & Bourse**

**Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 10:00 to 5:00**

Grantham Lions Club 732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, ON

Free admission/parking Lunch counter Dealers Youth Area

Info: stcatharinesstampclub.ca

## **BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB SHOW AND BOURSE**

**Saturday, February 7, 2015 from 9:30 to 4:30**

10 dealers, exhibits, snack bar, free admission and parking

Judith Nyman Secondary School, 1305 Williams Parkway , Brampton

Info: [bramaleastampclub.org](http://bramaleastampclub.org) Bob Thorne 905-792-3526

## **TORONTO POSTCARD CLUB 34th ANNUAL SHOW**

**Sunday, February 22, 2015 from 10:00 to 5:00**

OVER 1 MILLION POSTCARDS FOR SALE !!

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

6 Garamond Court, Toronto (Don Mills-Eglinton)

## **KAPEX 2015 - Regional Stamp Show and Bourse**

**Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9:30 to 4:30**

Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough

Admission free & plenty of parking

Exhibits-Dealers-Club Books-

Draws-Raffles-Giveaways-Show Covers

## **Edmonton Stamp Club 2015 SPRING STAMP SHOW**

**Saturday, March 28 from 10:00 to 5:00/Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00**

Central Lion's Center, 113 Street & 111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

Stamps for sale, Jr Table, Exhibits, WSP: Grand Award competes in

APS Champions, Wine & cheese Reception, BNAPS Breakfast

Info: [www.Edmontonstampclub.com](http://www.Edmontonstampclub.com)

## **ROYAL\*2015\*ROYALE (RPSC National Convention)**

**Hosted by Middlesex Stamp Club**

**May 22 to 24, 2015**

London Convention Centre, 300 York Street, London, Ontario

Info: [www.royal2015.com](http://www.royal2015.com)

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## **INSPIRATION!**

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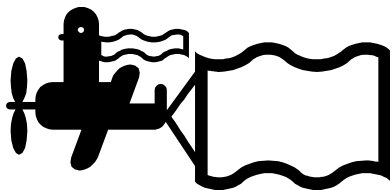
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## ***CLASSIFIED ADS***

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\*\*\*\*\*

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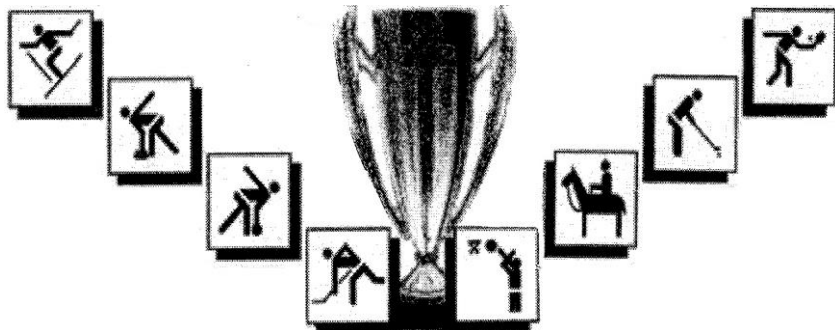
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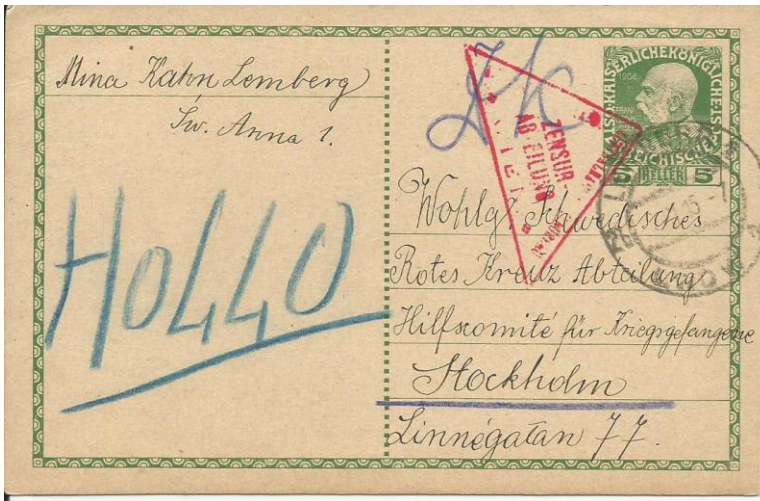
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## Searching for a loved one in November 1915

During World War I it is estimated that over seven million people were held as prisoners of war by the belligerents. This number included soldiers who had been captured and those who had surrendered, as well as, foreign civilians trapped behind enemy lines. One way for families and loved ones to determine the whereabouts and conditions of these prisoners was through the International Red Cross. The item shown below is an Austrian 5 Heller postal card sent from Lemberg/Lwów in Poland to Schwedisches Rotes Kreuz Abteilung Hilfscomite für Kriegsgefangene (Swedish Red Cross Prisoner of War Help Committee Department) in Stockholm requesting information about Izidor Hollo.



The card shows a triangular Vienna censor mark. Upon arrival in Stockholm the surname Hollo was written in large letters on the front of the card in blue pencil. This served as an aid for filing purposes.

The text on the reverse side of the card translates as  
**Lwów 11.XI.915**

*I am seeking the whereabouts of an Austro-Hungarian prisoner of war. Izidor Hollo, a Hungarian born in Balassagyarmat, was taken prisoner in Przemyśl March 22 1915. He served as a lieutenant in the 16th Regiment. Hoping for a quick response. Thank you in advance.*  
**Mina Kahn**

## World War I Recruiting Posters

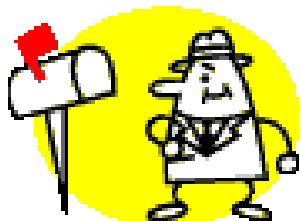
Recruiting soldiers in the British Commonwealth was very necessary in World War I, and many posters were created for this purpose.

Two are shown below, both with a Scout connection. On August 4, 2014 Jersey issued a set of 6 stamps and a miniature souvenir sheet for World War One. The souvenir sheet was a replica of a poster designed by Lord Baden-Powell for the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee in London in 1915. It shows a Scout handing some ammunition to a soldier. This poster was Number 112 of 200.

Another one (No. 122 - "Everyone Should Do His Bit") is also shown below. There was a third scout related poster, No. 61 "What will your answer be". The central theme of these posters was to "shame" the youth of Britain into enlisting.

When it was determined that they needed more, Britain implemented conscription in January, 1916.





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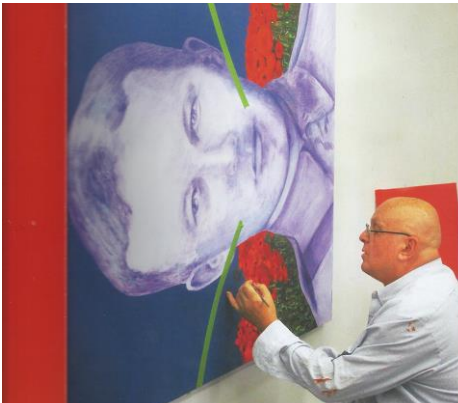
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## Poetic Reflections

In this issue, I have chosen clippings (stanzas) from famous pieces of poetry that focus on the tragedy of war, specifically World War I.

The first selection is a photographic clipping from a book printed in 2014 by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. *Lest We Forget*, paintings by Charles Pachter, OC, commemorates World War I and is accompanied by a collection of essays of personal reflections by well-known Canadians, on what we have learned from war. Charles Pachter is a Canadian painter, printmaker, sculpture and historian. His work has been exhibited at the AGO the ROM and the McMichael Gallery and is represented in many private collections throughout Canada and internationally.



Pachter is shown in his studio putting the finishing touches on one of the over 16 paintings in the book. As Canadians, I suspect everyone will recognize the image of the young doctor from Guelph who wrote the legendary poem memorized by generations of Canadian students. This excerpt is the middle stanza, one not often quoted but Pachter's favourite.

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
in Flanders Fields.*





My second selection is an excerpt from, *For the Fallen*, written by England's Robert Laurence Binyon. The full poem was written in 1914 just a few weeks after the outbreak of WW I with the British Expeditionary Force suffering many casualties in the first encounters with the Imperial German Army. The excerpt is from the fourth of seven stanzas. Royal Mail has quoted the lines on one of its WWI commemorative stamps, issued recently.



Robert Laurence Binyon



Robert Service is usually identified as the “Bard of the Yukon”. In actual fact, he relocated to France in 1913 and worked as an ambulance driver during WW I. He wrote *Rhymes of a Red Cross Man*, to honour his brother, Albert who was killed in action. The poetry is poignant as illustrated in the final verse of his poem, *The Lark*.....

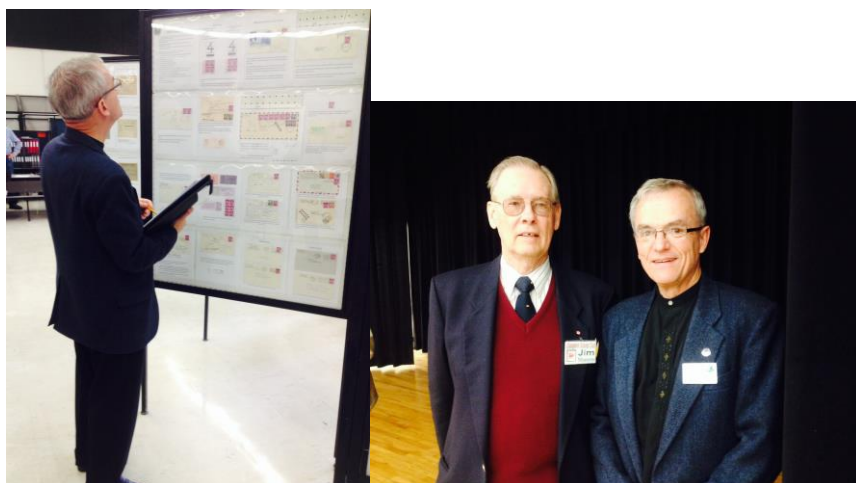


Pure heart of song! do you not know  
That we are making earth a hell?  
Or is it that you try to show  
Life still is joy and all is well?  
Brave little wings! Ah, not in vain  
You beat into that bit of blue:  
Lo! we who pant in war's red rain  
Lift shining eyes, see Heaven too.

## The GTAPA Challenge Trophy Competition

The 2014 GTAPA competition was held in conjunction with the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association's Annual Grand Fair hosted by the Bramalea Club on Saturday, October 25, 2014. The winning club of this single frame competition was North Toronto with exhibits from Michel Houde, David Law and Kenneth Snelson. Teams from West Toronto Stamp Club and Bramalea Stamp Club also participated.

**Garfield Porch is shown presenting the trophy to Michel Houde and Kenneth Snelson.**



The judges were George Pepall (Kitchener Waterloo Stamp Club) and Jim Measures (Saugeen Stamp Club).



## The Grand River Valley Philatelic Association Annual Grand Fair



The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand River Valley Philatelic Association (GRVPA) Fair was hosted by the Bramalea Stamp Club in Brampton on Saturday, October 25, 2014. Members of the Greater Toronto Philatelic Alliance, GTAPA, were also in attendance.

It was a great opportunity to socialize, trade, buy, sell and exhibit with a total of thirty clubs invited to participate.....no dealers, just club members, club sales books and two auctions. This was the largest recorded gathering of local stamp clubs in Canada.



A feature off the day was, as usual, the silent auction. Stuart Keeley (St. Catharines Stamp Club) and his team really had their "hands full" with the members' submissions of 254 lots.

Members of the GRVPA and GTAPA stamp clubs are already looking forward to the 2015 Grand Fair which will take place next October in Cambridge, Ontario. Congratulations GRVPA clubs! We will watch the PhilaJournal's "Mark Your Calendar" pages for the 2015 announcement.

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## The Princess Mary 1914 Christmas Gift



In November 1914, Princess Mary, the seventeen year old daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, asked for contributions to a 'Sailors & Soldiers Christmas Fund'. The purpose was to provide everyone wearing the King's uniform and serving overseas on Christmas Day 1914 with a 'gift from the nation'.

The contents of this tin (5" long by 3¼" wide by 1¼") varied considerably. Officers and men on active service afloat or at the front received a box containing a combination of pipe, lighter, 1 oz. of tobacco and twenty cigarettes in distinctive yellow monogrammed wrappers. Non-smokers and boys received a bullet pencil and a packet of sweets instead. Indian troops often got sweets and spices, and nurses were treated to chocolate.

Great efforts were made to distribute the gifts in time for Christmas, and huge demands were made on an already stretched postal service. More than 355,000 were successfully delivered by the deadline.

When the fund finally closed in 1920, almost £200,000 had been donated for the provision of more than two and a half million boxes with contents.

\*\*\*\*\*



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Do you want to add the information to the  
**"Mark Your Calendar"** in our next issue?

Send the information to [sbutler@ilap.com](mailto:sbutler@ilap.com)  
or, call Susan at 416-690-4666

**Wednesday, January 21, 2015 is the deadline.**

## Our Cover: “Remember to write that letter home!”

Susan Butler, Editor



I chose this photo for the cover as a reminder of the importance of mail in times of war or distress. The exchange of letters helped to maintain moral. News and gifts from home brought comfort to those fighting both the boredom and the horrors of the trenches.

Volunteers from the Red Cross and Salvation Army staffed centres that provided opportunities for soldiers to exchange news with family and friends, request parcels and confirm that they were still in one piece.

Twelve and a half million letters were sent to the [Western Front](#) every week during World War I. In 1914 the Postal Section of the Royal Engineers had a staff of 250 men. By 1918 the Army Postal Service employed 4,000 soldiers. Even soldiers in the [front line](#) trenches received daily deliveries of letters. The postcard below shows the mail being sorted at the “field Post Office”.



Letters were censored to avoid mention of operational details that might prove of value to the enemy. Forbidden information included references to locations, numbers of troops, field conditions and even the weather. Thus you can imagine how formal and dull these letters must have been. However they were a lifeline for both the soldiers on the front and their families at home.



## Report from a Comrade

This letter is part of a lot purchased at a garage sale a few years ago. It is marked as COPY so I believe it is a typewritten version of a handwritten letter. The letter, dated September 7, 1917 refers to the death, in battle, of a Sergeant Stevens.

One can only imagine how important letters such as these were to family and loved ones at home. We assume that Sergeant Stevens had spoken to the author of the letter about his sweetheart, Miss Sterling, and probably had shown her photo. This letter illustrates the commitment of soldiers to one another.

COPY.

WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE:

France. Sept. 7th. 1917.

Dear Miss Stirling;

I trust that in writing these few lines to you I am not too presuming, but I write as an old friend of your late friend Sergt. Stevens.

I was deeply sorry to hear of his death, and if these few words convey to you and his dear mother my most heart-felt sympathy in your great sorrow, they will have fulfilled my desire.

I am not in his battalion now, but I have recently been able to obtain from one of the boys who was wounded at the same time, a few pieces of information, which I think you will be pleased to know.

Early in the morning of his death his Company advanced about 200 yards across "No Man's Land" under the darkness and took what shelter they could find in the shell-holes in front of the German barb wire entanglements. Thus they remained for a period of two hours, and then at the hour appointed went forward to attack and consolidate the German line, which was their objective for that morning.

The German shell-fire, however, became so intense that the majority of his particular platoon became casualties, including the officer in charge of his platoon. Thus the command of it fell upon him, and he grabbing the flare pistol, which was to send up the S.O.S. if necessary, from his dead officer, went forward again but he had only gone a few yards when he fell with a sniper's bullet through the head.

The few remaining men did not reach the trench but had to retire, under great difficulty, to their own line.

One cannot draw too vivid a picture of the circumstances under which he fell, and he died a soldier's death. So sudden was it that I am convinced that he never knew what happened to him, for he just fell and never stirred.

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# GTAPA CLUB DIRECTORY



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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](mailto:donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com)

Paul Delongchamp [paul\\_delongchamp@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_delongchamp@hotmail.com)

David Goreski 905-579-3349 [davidrgoreski@sympatico.ca](mailto: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 7:00 to 9:00 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](mailto:r.thorne@sympatico.ca)

[www.bramaleastampclub.org](http://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](mailto: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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [grsachs@gmail.com](mailto:grsachs@gmail.com)

Lloyd Yamada 416-787-9232 [slloyd Yamada@hotmail.ca](mailto:slloyd Yamada@hotmail.ca)

## **North York Philatelic Society**

### **RPSC Chapter #21**

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

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

Mike Turk 905-731-8380 [turkm@accessv.com](mailto: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

## **Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin 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](mailto:lfriend@sympatico.ca)

Brooklin Jim Stevenson 905-576-4449

David Best [davidbest1953@gmail.com](mailto:davidbest1953@gmail.com)



## **Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club “Troyak” RPSC Chapter #240**

Meets on the last Sunday of each month, except holidays, at 4:30 pm  
John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga  
Contact: Tom Malicki 905-281-000  
[tom.malicki@gmail.com](mailto:tom.malicki@gmail.com) or [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com)  
[www.troyakclub.com](http://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**

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Tony Manson 416-447-4281 [tony.manson@sympatico.ca](mailto:tony.manson@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](mailto:ucst@upns.org)

## **Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club**

### **Wasaga Beach Chapter**

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm at the Prime Time Club located at 1724 Mosley Street in Wasaga Beach. George Potopnyk - (705) 429-4948 – [jpotopnyk@rogers.com](mailto:jpotopnyk@rogers.com)

### **Midland Chapter**

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre located at 527 Len Self Boulevard, Midland Ont.

Bern Kramer - (705) 686-3830 – [bkramer@eastlink.ca](mailto:bkramer@eastlink.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 yards of the church.

Members gather at 6:30 p.m. for a program commencing at 7:00 pm

Owen White 416-481-4731 [owen.white@sympatico.ca](mailto:owen.white@sympatico.ca)

## **West Toronto Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #14**

### **APS Chapter #174151**

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

Fairfield Senior Centre, 60 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

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

Sid Mensinga 416-621-9136 [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com)

Garfield Portch, FRPSC 416-239-0623 [gportch@ca.inter.net](mailto:gportch@ca.inter.net)



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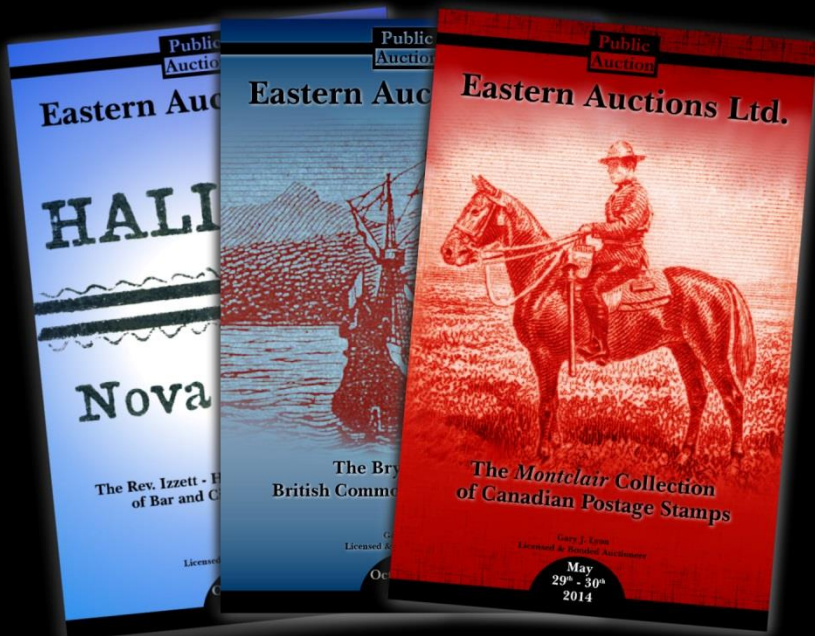
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