

PhilaJournal

www.gtapa.org

Winter 2015

Volume XIV Number 2 Whole Number 54 ISSN 1718-2387



Happy Holidays!



The

North Toronto Stamp Club

Royal Chapter #242

Member of GTAPA

2015 BOURSES

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

1585 Yonge Street, Toronto

10 am to 4 pm

Free admission

SPRING BOURSE MARCH 19th

SUMMER BOURSE JUNE 4th

For information Matt at 647-990-4073

Email: ntsc.programchair@gmail.com

DIRECTIONS -

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church is one block north of St. Clair Avenue on the east side of Yonge Street

There is subway access from the St. Clair station

Free parking at the church is limited

City Parking (**Green P**) is available on Alvin Ave.

one block east, for a fee

website: www.northtorontostampclub.ca

Welcome to Winter 2015 PhilaJournal

Volume XIV Number 2 Whole Number 54 ISSN 1718-2387

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

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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 GREATER TORONTO PHILATELIC ALLIANCE



APS Chapter #1555

ATA Chapter #109

RPSC Affiliate #4

MEMBER CLUBS

Ajax-Pickering Stamp Club
Bramalea Stamp Club
Credit Valley Stamp Club
Fenelon Falls Stamp Club
Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club
Kawartha Stamp Club
Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society
Muskoka Stamp Club
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North York Philatelic Society
Oshawa Whitby Brooklin Stamp Groups
Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club
Scarborough Stamp Club
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MEETINGS

Directors meet monthly on the fourth Wednesday at the
Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto, M4T 1A8
Visitors Welcome

It's time!

Yes, it is time to slow down, and “cosy up” to your stamp albums and stock books. Winter is here....to stay.....and to stay!

Before the snow gets too deep and if you are in the Toronto area, plan a trip to the Harry Sutherland Library at the VGG Philatelic Research Foundation. The library is open Monday to Thursday from 10:00 to 4:00 as well as the day of the GTAPA meetings (fourth Wednesday) and the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 to 4:00. You can email library@greenfoundation.ca or call 416-921-2073 to check or to book a special open day.

Before the last GTAPA meeting, I dropped in to say hi and to see what was new in the library. Librarian Kathy had spread the most recent arrivals out on the table like a smorgasbord. Yum! Yum! The range of materials in that library is amazing (not just Canadian and BNA). I usually stick to the glossy magazines with illustrations but I approached the buffet instead. A few items caught my eye. You can see them listed on page 23.

Many times articles submitted to the PhilaJournal cause a wave of nostalgia for me. In this issue it is Tony Manson's article on the Scout-Norman Rockwell connection. I clearly remember the Saturday Evening Post covers in which he portrayed insight into daily life. Those covers were my introduction to the nuances of humour.

Another wave of nostalgia came with Michel Houde's article on “The Language of Stamps” I hope that I am not leaking information about my age when I say that I remember sending letters to my beau over the summer holidays and turning the stamp upside down to indicate “I am always thinking of you.” Which, of course, I was not!

You will notice that I had to do some fancy footwork with the page layout for Michel's postcard as well as the photo of our latest GTAPA Club, Kawartha. When we asked them to send us a photo of their members we received more than we expected! Check put page 22 for information on this vibrant club.

2016 PHILAJOURNAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES
JANUARY 15TH, APRIL 15TH JULY 15TH OCTOBER 15TH

ST. CATHARINES STAMP CLUB

Annual Exhibition & Bourse

67th CATHEX

Saturday, January 16th, 2016

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grantham Lions Club

732 Niagara St., St. Catharines

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Contact: Andy Ellwood, Secretary

10 Doris Avenue

Gloucester, ON K1T 3W8

Email: secretary@bnaps.org

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

BNAPS – The Society for Canadian Philately

The President's Viewpoint

Larry Friend

lfriend@sympatico.ca

Well done, Fenelon Falls!

How great it was....August 22, 2015! Our best GTAPA meeting ever!

Jim Breadner of the Fenelon Falls Stamp Club suggested that it would be valuable if as many as possible of the GTAPA club representatives could meet in Fenelon in the summer to participate in a GTAPA meeting because many of our associate clubs cannot get to the monthly Toronto GTAPA meetings.

The day started with a “meet and greet” of twenty-eight GTAPA members, representing twelve different clubs. The jammed packed meeting began with the welcoming remarks by Fenelon Falls Stamp Club president Lloyd McEwan and the introductions of members from our associate clubs; Muskoka, Georgian Bay and Kawartha.

The agenda, along with regular business, included a Show and Tell presentation on the Magna Carta by Lorne Chester of the Fenelon Club; an update, by George Pepall on the initiatives and future plans of The Royal; the use of RPSC Sales Circuit Books; an invitation by Kathy, librarian of the Harry Southerland Philatelic Library at the VGG, to take advantage of the Library and its resources; a very entertaining presentation titled “Your Slip is Showing” by Garfield Porch and a fun quiz complete with prizes presented by Peter Butler . It was just fantastic! Susan Butler, always ahead of the game, had the PhilaJournal ready for distribution along with a report on the current issue and request from submissions from member clubs.

Vijay Vijayakumar made a fine donation of philatelic material from his foundation to the GTAPA. It was passed on to the Fenelon Club to be used to enhance their upcoming meetings.

The ladies, who accompanied their stamp collecting mates, were treated to a stroll and tour of Fenelon Falls led by tour guides Evelyn Baker and Brenda Friend. Their tour ended with refreshments and then, the BBQ in the park.

This splendid day, great meeting and perfect weather was all topped off with a BBQ by the lake, compliments of the Fenelon Falls Stamp Club. Turn to page 13 for photos.

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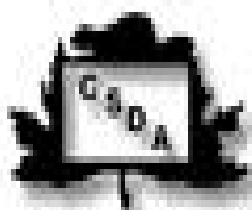
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(like image shown below)



Contact - Denzil by email at fernandesdenzil11@gmail.com

Fantasy Stamps: The Kingdom of Sedang

Some of you may have seen on the internet, or found in some old collections, stamps from the Kingdom of Sedang. These stamps were issued in 1889 and represent one of the first attempts to profit from the growing interest in stamp collecting through the issue of fantasy stamps. The Kingdom of Sedang was the invention of a French adventurer, Charles-Marie David de Mayrena.

Mayréna, a former French government official with a dubious history, had studied geology and medicine in France but moved to French Indochina, where in 1888 he was the owner of a plantation. When the king of Siam began claiming territories near French Indochina, Mayréna convinced the French Authorities to let him lead an expedition into the interior in order to negotiate alliance treaties with the local tribespeople. Mayrena had a secret agenda. Once he reached the area, he befriended the local tribesmen, married the daughter of a local chief and, after helping them to stop an epidemic, he convinced the local chiefs to elect him Chief of the Chiefs.



The Kingdom of Sedang, as he named it, incorporated the Bahnar, Rengao, and Sedang tribes. Once he became king, Mayrena established his capital at Kon Gung (also called Pelei Agna, or Great City), and assumed the new name of Marie the First, King of the Sedang, June 3, 1888.

Mayrena subsequently travelled to Europe where he tried unsuccessfully to sell his territory rights to the French and to other foreign powers. In Paris he stayed at the Ritz Hotel with a group of dignitaries and started raising money by selling nobility rights to rich French businessmen. He then moved to Belgium, where he started selling “official” stamps of the Kingdom of Sedang and mining rights in Sedang. A few months later he boarded the ship Sachesen to go back to Indochina. In Singapore, he was arrested by the British for contraband and had to interrupt his return trip.

In the meantime, the French denied Mayrena the authorization to return to Indochina and sent troops in Annam to stop any autonomy demands in the Sedang region. Mayrena was forced to remain in Malesia, in the island of Tioman in Penang State. On November 11, 1890, he died in Tioman, without being able to return to Sedang. The causes of his death are not clear, probably poisoned by a cobra bite or by a poisoned arrow.

None of the stamps he brought with him ever arrived in Sedang but in the meantime, in Europe, his Belgian partner managed to sell quite a large number of stamps to collectors who wanted to add a new exotic kingdom to their collection.

These fantasy stamps are over 125 years old and were still quite popular in the early 1900's. You can find them easily in very old stamp collections. As far as I know there was only one set of seven stamps issued with the following denominations: 1/2 math, moi (= 1) math, ber (= 2) math, pouen (= 4) math, moi (= 1) mouk, \$1/2 and \$1.



These stamps should be considered Cinderellas and have a very colourful history behind them.

They continue to attract genuine interest from some stamp collectors.



A Colonel Mak tried to relaunch the "Kingdom of Sedang" in 1996 by setting up a website, awarding nobility titles and even issuing stamps. The "Regency" of the Kingdom of Sedang was initially set up in Toronto and then moved to Montreal. I have been unable to find up to date information on the current status of this "Regency of Sedang".



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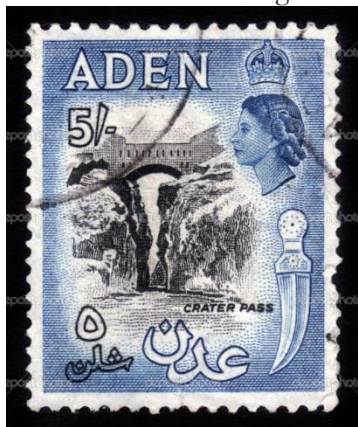
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The Real Photo Post Card

One of the real thrills of collecting is that the study of stamp leads to the study of postal history, which enriches and deepens your knowledge, until finally the Real Photo Post Card (RPPC) becomes a visceral pleasure. This item is a treasure on both sides of the card.



It was purchased for the dramatic image on the photo side as much as for the Italian ship cancel on the stamps. The two sides support each other wonderfully. The lovely sepia photo shows a narrow, hole-in-the-wall pass surmounted by a castle, a parapet wall over the pass, and a smaller fortification to the left. It triggered a ghostly memory... The printer of the card was given as Pallonjee, Dinshaw & Co., of Aden, and Aden is mentioned in the message as well.



Using these hints I realized that what we have is in fact the full view of the walled pass leading down into Crater, which is shown in miniature on the five-shilling Aden stamp issued in the 1950's, on the left.

GTAPA in Fenelon Falls August 2015

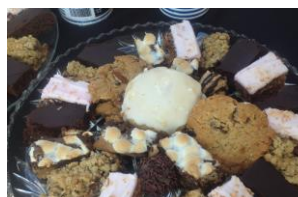
The GTAPA Meeting



The Fenelon Tour Group “Meeting”



The Lakeside BBQ....Thanks, Fenelon!



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Security Measures

Stamp issuing agencies have often used various methods as security measures such as micro printing, watermarking, tagging or syncopated perforating to name just a few to authenticate their products.



The image on the right is what is seen under infrared light

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Croatian Post Ltd Mostar in June 2012 issued a stamp inscribed Medjugorje 2012 dedicated to a shrine visited by millions of pilgrims annually. The stamp is protected by the so-called INFRADESIGN protection which reveals a security feature design which can only be seen using an infrared light or camera. This was the first time the technology has been used for a postage stamp.



Finland also protected one of its issues in 2013 when it issued a set of six stamps featuring characters from the extremely popular game Angry Birds. The game created by a Finnish game developer first released in late 2009 for use on touchscreen based smartphones has had over 2 billion downloads in

its various forms for phone and computer use. The stamps which feature a pattern which is only visible under UV light also have irregular perforations which follow the shape of the characters.

If you have information about unusual stamps, please email me at jerry Piotrowski74@hotmail.com using "unusual stamps" in the subject line or give it to your club GTAPA representative to pass along to me.

SWEDEN EUROPA SETS VF USED SCOTT 2015: \$40.00		
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	<p>Box 578 Bromptonville Station Sherbrooke, Qc, J1C 1A1 email: zimostamp@sympatico.ca</p>	<p>\$20.00 Tel: 819-846-1771</p>

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

2016 SPRING NATIONAL STAMP SHOW



April 2-3, Sat. 10-5pm, Sun. 10-4pm

- NEW LOCATION -

Central Lion's Recreational Centre

113 St & 111 Ave, Edmonton Alberta

Stamp Dealers from across Canada

Stamp Circuit Books, Door Prize Draw, Junior Stamp Table

National-level Competitive Stamp Exhibits (WSP)

Exhibits Chairperson: liuszmoser@gmail.com

Free Admission, Free Stamp Evaluations

The theme of this year's show is Edmonton: Gateway to the North

Info: eddykstra@shaw.ca or www.edmontonstampclub.com



Yes, we need your help.

We want to make the PhilaJournal even better!

What can you do?

Here are a few ideas:

- ✓ Tell us about a recent program topic that club members enjoyed.
- ✓ Send us some “snapshots” of your club in session.
- ✓ Recommend a book that you found helpful and interesting.
- ✓ Lead us to a website that you find useful.
- ✓ Write about your favourite topic.....200 words and a scan of an item or two.
- ✓ Recommend a club member for a GTAPA Award of Merit and then send us a photo of the presentation.
- ✓ Go to one of the shows promoted on pages 20 and 21. Report on what you liked and learned and who you met.
- ✓ Promote the PhilaJournal to a person who might buy an advertisement.

	Black and White		Colour	
Page size	1 Issue 4 issues		1 Issue 4 issues	
1/3 page	\$25	\$90	\$30	\$110
1/2 page	\$45	\$170	\$50	\$180
Full page	\$65	\$220	\$70	\$230



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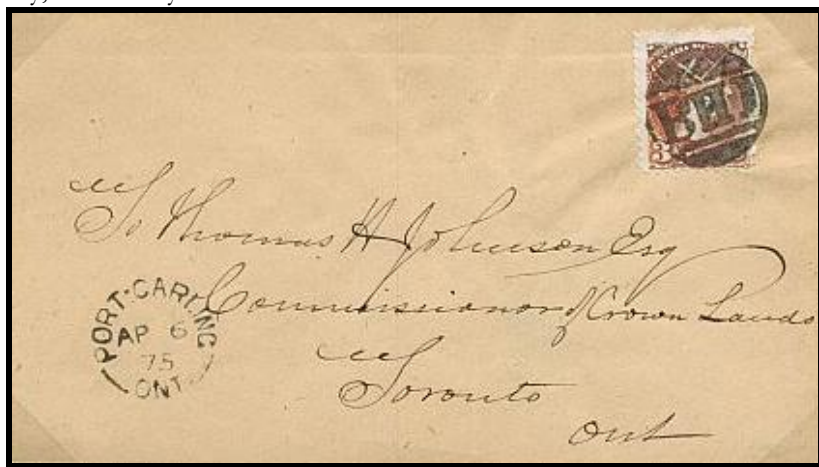
Fancy Cancels

A fancy cancel is a postal cancellation that includes an artistic design. Although the term may be used in reference to modern machine cancellations that include artwork, it primarily refers to the designs carved in cork and used in 19th century post offices.

The regulations concerning the postmarking of envelopes at the time of Confederation may be summarized as follows: The item was to be postmarked in the lower left corner of the envelope with the date and name of the forwarding office; if the office had not been issued with a suitable date stamp it was to be done in script.

Adhesive postage stamps were to be obliterated with a killer, not the date stamp. If no such killer had been issued to the office, the postage stamp was to be cancelled with a pen and ink cross, or by a suitable killer provided by the postmaster. The office of destination had to record its arrival with its date stamp, or in script.

The reason postage stamps were not to be cancelled using a date stamp is that if it was the only postal marking on the front of the cover, and the adhesive stamp was removed, the record of the item's time in transit was lost. This could leave the Postal Authorities open to a charge of undue delay, which they wanted to avoid.



This cover illustrates an obliterated stamp and the placement of the postmark according to regulations.



Fancy cancels made by postal officials fall into several groups. The most prolific are simply cross cuts on a generally round background which were most likely made from cork and which include designs such as Sunburst, Maple Leaf and Star, shown above.

	ALAND DUCK SET VF NH SCOTT 2016: \$17.75 US
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AJAX-PICKERING STAMP CLUB

SALE & AUCTION

AJAX PUBLIC LIBRARY

55 Harwood Ave S, Ajax

Thursday February 10, 2016

Sale 5:30PM-6:30PM (100 Lots)

Auction 7:00PM-8:30PM (200 Lots)

Free Admission & Parking

Contact: billandbernice@sympatico.ca

www.ajax-pickering-stamp-club.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Scarborough Stamp Club 2016 POSTAGE STAMP SHOWS

Saturdays from 9:00 to 2:00

January 2/23, February 13/27, March 12/26, April 9/23

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

3rd Saturday of each month, all year from 9:00 to 2:00

December 19, 2015

January 16, February 20, March 19, April 16, 2016

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

Free Admission & Parking Info: 905-575-2950 (bas6@bell.net)

CATHEX St. Catharines Annual Exhibition & Bourse

Saturday, January 16, 2016 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

UNIPEX TORONTO Stamp & Coin Show 2016

Friday, January 22 (11:00 to 6:00), Saturday, January 23 (10:00 to 5:00),

Sunday, January 24 (10:00 to 4:00), 2016

Montecasino Hotel 3170 Chesswood Drive, Downsview

Free Admission & Parking Door Prizes

More info: 416-242-5900

Bramalea Stamp Club CLUB SHOW AND BOURSE

Saturday, February 6, 2016 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 Bob Thorne 905-792-3526

Ajax-Pickering Stamp Club SALE & AUCTION

Thursday February 10, 2016

Sale 5:30-6:30 (100 Lots) Auction 7:00-8:30 (200 Lots)

Ajax Public Library, 55 Harwood Ave S, Ajax

Free Admission & Parking

Contact: billandbernice@sympatico.ca

www.ajax-pickering-stamp-club.com

Kawartha Stamp Club Winter Auction

Tuesday, February 23, 6:15 to 8:30

Knights of Columbus Hall, 810 Frank Street, Peterborough

Free parking & Admission No Buyers Fees....Cash Only

Troyak STAMPS, COINS, and COLLECTIBLES SHOW

March 5 & 6 9:00 to 4:00

4300 Cawthra Rd. (south of Hwy. 403)

Free parking

25+ stamp dealers, coins, paper money.

More details at info@troyakclub.com

**In our next issue read more details about the following
SPRING SHOWS**

North Toronto Stamp Club

Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 10:00 to 4:00

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto

Info: Matt at 647-990-4073 or www.northtorontostampclub.ca

KAPEX 2016 - Regional Stamp Show and Bourse

Saturday, March 26, 2016 from 9:30 to 4:30

Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough

NYPEX 2016 North York Philatelic Society

Saturday, March 26, 2014 from 10:00 to 4:00

580 Finch Ave W. (one & a half blocks west of Bathurst St.)

Info: Mike at 905-731-8380 turkm39@gmail.com

Edmonton Stamp Club 2016 SPRING STAMP SHOW

April 2/3 from 10:00 to 5:00/Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00

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

Info: eddykstra@shaw.ca or www.edmontonstampclub.com

Ajax-Pickering Stamp Club STAMP & COIN SHOW

Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 9:30 to 3:30

Pickering Recreational Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering



GTAPA welcomes the Kawartha Stamp Club!

GTAPA representatives were happy to meet Club president John Ross and other Kawartha club members at the Fenelon Falls meeting in August. We look forward to hearing more about their activities in their PhilaJournal submissions.

The Kawartha Stamp Club has been in continuous operation since 1956.

They currently have a membership in excess of 100 collectors who are pursuing a wide range of interests from generalists to specialists, topical as well as country collectors.

They welcome everyone who supports and values these interests at their meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Note that meetings change to suit the season: Spring/Summer/Fall 6:00 to 8:30, Winter noon to 3:00 at the Knights of Columbus Hall 810 Franks Street, Peterborough.

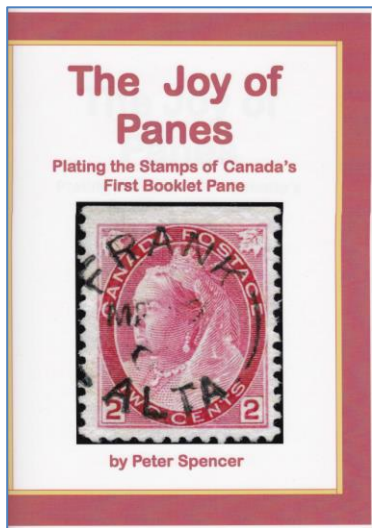
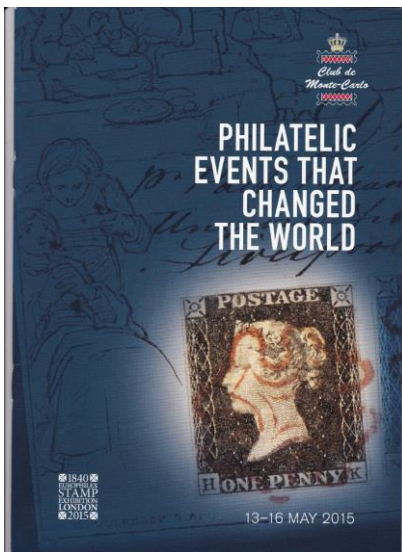
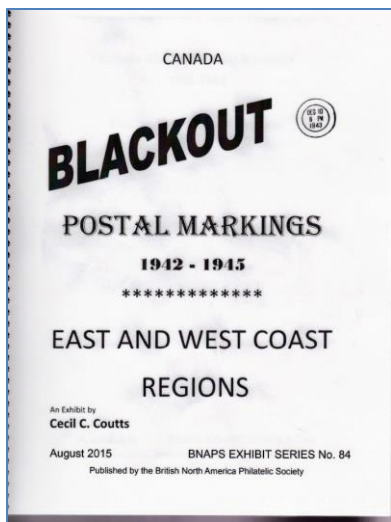
For meeting info contact Marie 705-745-4993 kingfisher@nexicom.net

Check out their very complete website at www.rpsc.org/chapters/kawartha/

And, think of going to their yearly show, KAPEX on March 26, 2016 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Evinrude Centre

What's new in the Harry Sutherland Library?

You will have to admit that there are some interesting titles here!



Some other titles.....

Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations.

Postal History of the Yukon

Explorers of Canada First Day Covers

English and Welsh Spoon Cancels

FACIT 2015 Special

International Rapid Cancelling Machines

Be “in the know”!

Become a Friend of the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Research Library.

Email library@greene.foundation.ca to get on the mailing list.

Oltre Giuba – Italian Protectorate

Oltre Giuba is the Italian name for a strip of land west of the Juba River in East Africa. To the English speaking world, it is known as Jubaland. To the south is the Indian Ocean, on the east side is Italian Somalia, to the north is Ethiopia, and on the west is Kenya.



Italy was claimed loss of possessions after World War I. Under the Anglo Italian Treaty of July 15, 1924, this small strip of land was given to Italy by Great Britain in 1924 and was ceded to Italy on June 29, 1925. It is about 33,000 square miles in size and then had a population of about 12,000 people, mostly Somalis. In 1926 it was incorporated with Italian Somaliland, and in 1936 became part of Italian East Africa.

Oltre Giuba's first stamps were issued on July 29, 1925, and the last ones were issued on June 1, 1926. In that very short period of time (less than one year) a total of 66 stamps were issued. All except two sets of seven and six stamps respectively, were Italian stamps

overprinted "OLTRE GIUBA". The first set consisted of 20 regular issues ranging from one centesemi to 10 lire, 10 postage due stamps ranging from 5 centesemi to 5 lire, and 13 parcel post stamps ranging from 5 centesemi to 20 lire, all overprinted.

The two overprinted commemorative sets were issued to honour Victor Emmanuel and St. Francis of Assisi. Two sets issued specifically for Oltre Giuba were issued in June 1926, a set of seven stamps showing a map of Oltre Juiba which commemorated the first anniversary of its acquisition by Italy, and a second set of six stamps for the Italian Colonial Institute omnibus issue.



The Stamps of Oltre Giuba

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A Popular Christmas Postmark from Austria

In Austria, the Christ Child, Christkindl, brings the gifts on Christmas Eve. Christkindl is also the name of a small village in Northern Austria. Every Christmas season, a special post office opens there to service all mail it receives with commemorative stamps and an original pictorial postmark.



The village was established as a pilgrimage shrine. According to folklore, a choirmaster and organist who suffered from epilepsy visited the area one winter. As he walked in the woods he often prayed. On one occasion he carried a small statue of the Christ Child given to him by the nuns at a nearby convent. He placed it in a niche that he had cut in a pine tree and prayed for relief of his

illness. His health improved and the local townspeople hearing of the “miraculous cure” visited the area. It soon became a seasonal centre for pilgrims. A small wooden enclosure was built around the tree and by 1709 a small church was erected. It soon became a prominent tourist attraction and by 1877 the church was reconstructed incorporating the pine tree in its altar.

In 1950, the Austrian postal authority decided to build a seasonal post office using a special annual hand cancel. The project proved to be very successful and it has continued ever since. It is one of the most popular philatelic events of the year for worldwide collectors of Christmas stamps and covers.



Collectors can have their letters and cards postmarked by the Christkindl Post Office. Send your pre-addressed envelopes in a separate envelope to: Christkindl Post Office A-4411 Christkindl, Austria.

Include International Reply Coupons to cover the postage home worldwide. You may illustrate the cover(s) or add labels but leave room for stamps and the postmarks. Here are two samples of stamps and postmarks from my collection

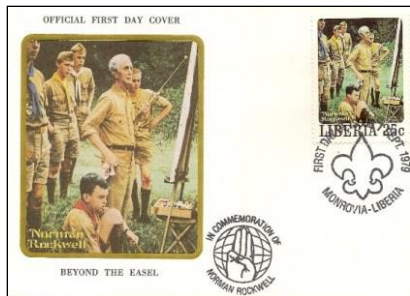
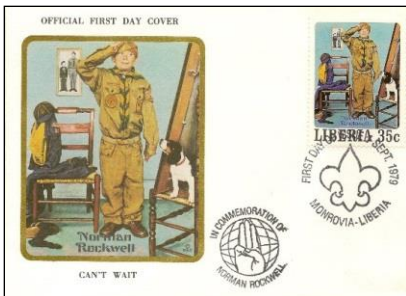
Norman Rockwell's Scouting Connection

In the fall of 1912, a young 18 year old man entered the offices of *Boys' Life* magazine. He had just finished attending three different art schools in the last two years and was looking for a job. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA), in July of that year, had just published their first issue of *Boys' Life* and had decided they needed their own illustrator if it was to become a success. It was good timing, since that young man was Norman Rockwell. After showing examples of his work, he was quickly hired. This started his long and significant association with the BSA organization.

Rockwell illustrated many of the stories in the magazine and designed the magazine covers, as well as illustrating a number of scouting manuals. His work was quickly recognized and he decided to leave his job and work on commission. Thus the BSA was Rockwell's first, and only, salary-based job.

However, Rockwell never really left, since he continued for the rest of his life to illustrate many magazines and manuals for the BSA. Then in 1925 the BSA issued their very first Calendar as a fund raising project. Norman did the Calendar picture, as he did the next year, and the one after that. In fact, over the 52 years, 1925 to 1976, Rockwell illustrated 50 of the Calendars.

On September 1, 1979 Liberia issued a set of 50 stamps, one for each of those 50 pictures. Two are shown below on FDC's (Scott 857i & 856a).



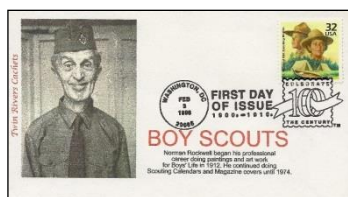
The first one is *Can't Wait* from the 1972 Calendar. The other one *Beyond the Easel*, showing Norman in Boy Scout uniform, was from the 1969 Calendar.



As the BSA approached their 50th Anniversary they convinced the Post Office to issue a stamp recognizing this milestone. Once again Rockwell was called on to do the artwork. The result was this stamp issued on February 8, 1960 (Scott 1145). Shortly after, he designed one other stamp (non-scouting), but then decided to stay with his other larger artwork in the future. Upon his death in 1978, Rockwell left the rights to all his scouting material to the BSA. In 2004, SOSSI held their annual meeting and other events at TEXPEX in Dallas and had a tour of the BSA Scouting Museum there. In that Museum is a separate Norman Rockwell Room where they hang on a rotation basis, 15 to 20 of Rockwell's original oil paintings of the Calendar series. These are large, almost floor to ceiling size paintings that are absolutely spectacular.

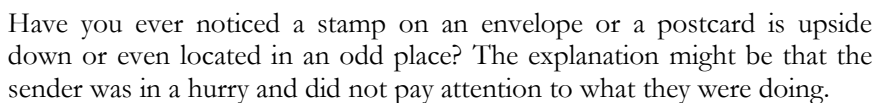


Rockwell was recognized by the USPS, who issued a stamp and a souvenir sheet on July 1, 1994 (Scott 2839 & 2840a to d) in his honour.



He is also depicted on many scouting covers such as this February 3, 1998 FD one with the scouting stamp (Scott 3183j) from the *Celebrate The Century* series. Rockwell is seen in a humorous pose in a scouting uniform.

Norman passed away in 1978 at the age of 84 after decades of supporting the scouting movement in the U.S.A. The BSA presented Norman Rockwell with their highest award, the Silver Buffalo, for his distinguished service to scouting.



However, you might be surprised to learn that they might have been using the stamp to send a coded message!

This language of stamps started in the time of Queen Victoria as a way for a writer to send a discreet message. It became very popular in the 1890's especially on postcards where your message can be read by nosey people. Today it is rarely used due to the decline in letter writing and postal rules limiting where a stamp can be placed. But still, it is popular among those writing to loved ones separated for an extended time. It adds an icon of affection to their letter.

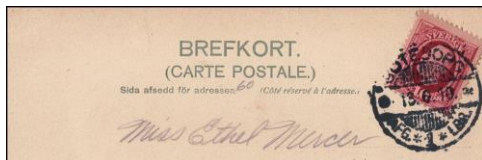
A thing to note is that there was no standard for this language of stamps. I have several postcards similar to the one shown on the left each giving their own meaning to the orientation and position of the stamp. What was important was the individuals communicating had to agree on the meaning otherwise the wrong message might be received leading to an unfortunate miscommunication.

Here are three items I have in my collection interpreted according to the postcard shown on the left.



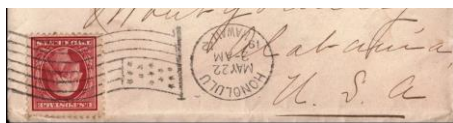
*Top right-hand corner,
upside down*

**"I am always thinking of
you."**



Tilted to the right

"Will you be mine?"



*Lower left hand corner, upside
down*

"I am always true to you."

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In March 2015, the West Toronto Stamp Club celebrated

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We invite anyone who is interested in the Machin Issues of Great Britain to join us

at 7 p.m. at the Fairfield Senior Centre in Etobicoke.

Please visit our website at

www.westtorontostampclub.org

for additional meeting details and contact information.

Our Cover.....

Our cover polar bear is one of three stamps in this year's Christmas Animals series. Animals have often been featured on Canadian Christmas stamps, but never quite like these portrait-style illustrations, according to Canada Post. These three "classically Canadian" animals, designed by Paprika and illustrated by Gérard DuBois, appear in a "whimsical holiday wardrobe".

- On the international-rate stamp, the polar bear braces for the cold in a red cap, scarf, and cozy sweater.
- On the domestic rate stamp the toque attired moose is featured.
- On the U.S.-rate stamp, a grinning beaver wearing a red flannel shirt and green flat cap with a sprig of holly in his mouth will be a collectible for sure!



On the reverse side of the First Day Cover, this paragraph tells a story of what these three could be saying to each other....

"It must be just about time," said Moose, aloud to himself. Through the snowy trees, he saw Polar Bear lumbering forward. "A good Christmas Eve to you! Moose busied himself clearing a circle in the snow where he and his friends could sit. "Christmas Eve it is," said Polar Bear, "You can feel it in the air,"

Beaver rushed into the clearing, his jaunty hat askew. "Sorry I'm late. So much work." Polar Bear grinned at Moose for the three creatures were old, comfortable friends and Beaver always worked too hard.

"Shall we?" said Moose. They gathered in the circle to exchange gifts: wood carvings from Beaver, smooth round stones Moose found in a creek, perfect ice crystals from Polar Bear. But all three knew the biggest gift of all was to be together, to talk and reminisce, thanks to the Christmas magic that had blessed the animals with the gift of speech on this night so long ago.

GTAPA CLUB DIRECTORY

Ajax-Pickering Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #163

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 5:00 to 9:00
at Ajax Public Library on Harwood Road South (south of the 401).

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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 2:00 to 4:00 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 bobthorne70@gmail.com

www.bramaleastampclub.org

Credit Valley Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #67

Meets 1st and 3rd Wed of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Christ Church United, 1700 Mazo Cr, Mississauga
(1 block E of Clarkson Rd & 1 block S of Truscott)

Bob Laker 905-608-9794

Vijay 905-867-5410 vijaystamps@gmail.com

Fenelon Falls Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #176

Meets on the 2nd 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

Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #168

Wasaga Beach Chapter

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

Midland Chapter

Meets the *1st Tuesday* of each month from 6:30 until 8:30 pm at the
North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre
located at 527 Len Self Boulevard, Midland Ontario
Bern Kramer - (705) 686-3830 – bkramer@eastlink.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)
Jorge Montalvo 416-222-0408 montalvoj@bell.net

The Kawartha Stamp Club

RPSC Chapter #58

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month
Spring/Summer/Fall 6:00 to 8:30
Winter noon to 3:00
at the Knights of Columbus Hall 810 Franks Street, Peterborough
Marie 705-745-4993 kingfisher@nexicom.net
www.rpsc/chapters/kawartha/program

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
Mattia Guida 647-990-4073 ntsc.programchair@gmail.com
Bruce Phillips ntsc.membership@gmail.com

Muskoka Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #216

Meets monthly on the first Wednesday 7:30 to 9:00 pm
Bracebridge Public School, 90 McMurray St., Bracebridge
Bruce Hughes 705-385-2020 brucestamper1@sympatico.ca

North York Philatelic Society

RPSC Chapter #21

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from Sept to June
From 6:00 to 9:00 July and August, 3rd Wednesday only
Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue
Mike Turk 905-731-8380 turkm39@gmail.com
(Note: Moving to a TBA location for April to October)

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 905-281-0000 tom.malicki@gmail.com
info@troyakclub.com www.troyakclub.com

Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin Stamp Groups

RPSC Chapter #230

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

The Whitby Group meets Monday morning 10:30 to 12:30 at
The Whitby Seniors Building, 801 Brock Street Whitby
and every Tuesday evening 6:00 to 8:30 pm
at Brooklin Community Centre 8 Vipond Rd in Brooklin

Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin Contact Information

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
David Best davidbest1953@gmail. 905-263-2216

SOSSI, Maple Leaf Chapter
Scouts on Stamps Society International
RPSC Chapter # 242

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
2015/2016 season: Jan 17 Etobicoke, Feb 21 Etobicoke,
Mar 20 Hamilton, Apr 17 Campbellville, May 15 Niagara Falls.
Tony Manson 416-447-4281 tony.manson@sympatico.ca

Scarborough Stamp Club RPSC Chapter #223

Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except July and August,
at Cedarbrook Community Centre, Rooms 1 & 2, main floor,
91 East Park Blvd. (near Markham and Lawrence)
Doug Cockburn 416-757-4072

Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club

RPSC Chapter # 238

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except July and Aug)
at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street
(a short walk north of the St. Clair TTC Subway Station)
Limited parking is available in the church parking lot
Members gather at 6:30 p.m. for a program commencing at 7:00 pm
Mike Graf 416-534-6936 graf20003@yahoo.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
(except July and August)
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, 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.
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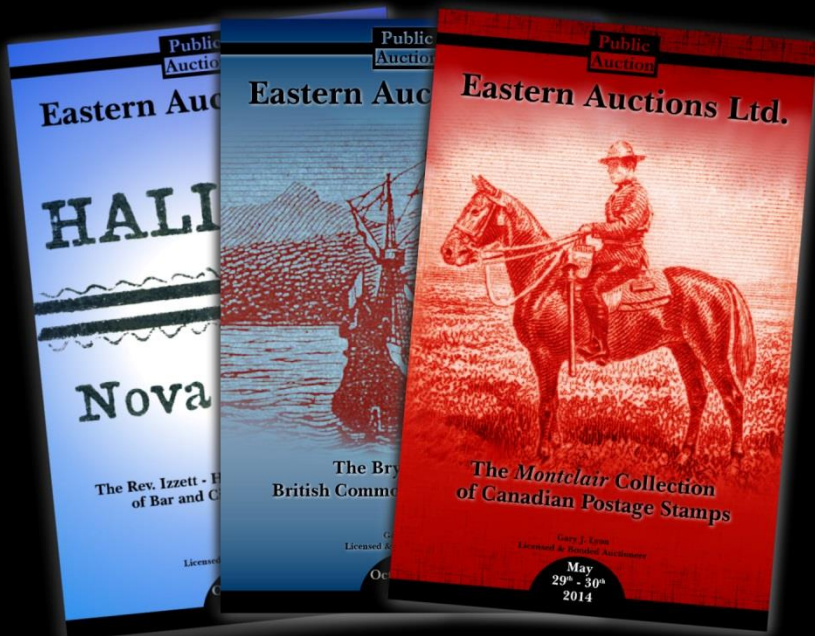
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