



# Bulletin

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club  
[www.westtorontostampclub.org](http://www.westtorontostampclub.org)

The Club meets at  
**Fairfield Seniors' Centre**  
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON  
416-394-8687

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## PRESIDENT SID'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

This past month, I thoroughly enjoyed reading, *"On Track - The Railway Mail Service in Canada"* - by Susan McLeod O'Reilly. This most interesting book, full of images and personal anecdotes, not only provided me with a better understanding of the RPO system and its various postal markings, but also provided me with a glimpse into the lives of railway postal workers. These young men spent their working lives crisscrossing the country in trains as they processed a continuous stream of letter mail and parcels of all sorts.

The job was physically and mentally demanding and done to a high standard, with pride, by fit bright young men working in the tight quarters of a mail car. Precise knowledge of mail train schedules, the official postal guide, and the everchanging instructions to railway mail clerks were a must. Their speed at sorting mail was regularly tested. Not maintaining a core of 90% meant dismissal as an RPO worker. This book is a must read for the RPO collector, a terrific work of social philately.

Reading this most engaging book again brought to the fore the value of building and maintaining a personal philatelic library. What is in your personal philatelic library that enhances your knowledge and appreciation of what you collect?

### April philatelic opportunities for WTSC members.

1. **Learning Workshop, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 6 - "Varieties are the Spice of Life"** The zoom link and reminder has been sent to all members. **What varieties found in your collections will you be sharing?** As well, plan to attend the Learning Workshop session planned for May 4<sup>th</sup>. Details on page 3.
2. **Discussion Group, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 - ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING. This is your opportunity** to provide input for both the Discussion Group and the Learning Workshop sessions. See page 2 for the April and May Discussion Group meeting details.
3. As well consider attending this month's (RPSC) **Stamp Talk and Stamp Panel sessions**

**Monday April 12** – Ron Majors - *"Canada/British North America (BNA)-Union and Confederate Postal Cross Border Correspondence during the US Civil War"*

**Monday April 19** – *Thematic collecting. What is it? Why is it the newest rage?* Chris Hargreaves (moderator), Jean Wang (panelist), Derwin Mak (panelist)

Registration in advance is required for both RPSC webinars. See RPSC website for details. <https://www.rpsc.org/>

Multiple philatelic Virtual meeting opportunities continue to be available. These sessions are most informative, a great way to delve deeper, and a means to connect with likeminded collectors. If you need any help to get started using Zoom contact me at [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com) for assistance.

Are you taking advantage of our club's **FREE/FOR SALE/WANTED MARKETPLACE**? Ads will appear in the WTSC Bulletin for up to 3 months. Send your ads to Bob Timberg [timberg@bell.net](mailto:timberg@bell.net) or Sid Mensinga [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com)

## **DISCUSSION GROUP**

### **APRIL 20: ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING**

This meeting is convened annually to allow Club members an opportunity to provide input for both the Discussion Group and the Learning Workshop. We hope that members will provide constructive criticism and provide us with ideas and suggestions for future programs. If time permits, a limited "Show and Tell" will take place.

### **MAY 18: TORONTO'S FIRST POST OFFICE**

Although the presentation is not yet firm, one or two representatives will provide a virtual tour of Toronto's First Post Office followed by a discussion of the current operations of the office and a presentation of 19th Century postal history.

**ELECTION UPDATE** As announced last month, current directors have been contacted and are excitedly looking forward to continuing in their roles. As well two members have put their names forward for the position of Director without portfolio.

At this point we have a full slate of 12 directors (the maximum per our constitution). The role and responsibilities of secretary have not been assigned to one individual but will be shared amongst the Board members.

If no new names come forward, this WTSC Board for 2021/2022 will be acclaimed. Nominations will be closed April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ted - [ted.swain@sympatico.ca](mailto:ted.swain@sympatico.ca)

**GTAPA SINGLE PAGE COMPETITION** to be held April 28<sup>th</sup>. Club members are welcome to participate. Consider developing a single page for this event or use your entry developed for our Club Single Page Exhibition held in the fall. For those new to single page exhibiting, see our Past President Frank Alusio's Article "[Single-page Exhibits-A Success Story](#)" that accompanies this bulletin.

Information for the **April 28<sup>th</sup> ZOOM GTAPA Meeting and the Single Page Competition.**

- Review the guidelines and judging criteria "[Single-page Exhibits-A Success Story](#)".
- Pier judging using a Zoom Poll will be used to pick the top three entries. Results are instantaneous once the poll is closed.
- Do not place your name on the page, a number will be assigned.
- Scan at 300 dpi and save as jpg or pdf to allow for closer examination (if creating a physical page first)
- Send your entry to the PhilaJournal Editor at [philajournal@gmail.com](mailto:philajournal@gmail.com)
- Entries can be submitted until Tuesday midnight on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

ZOOM Meeting info:

Topic: GTAPA April Meeting & Single Page Competition

Time: Apr 28, 2021 19:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84502576100?pwd=YnlnL3I3MEltMIBTOEg2VjlydjE0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 845 0257 6100

Passcode: 819373

Dial by your location

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

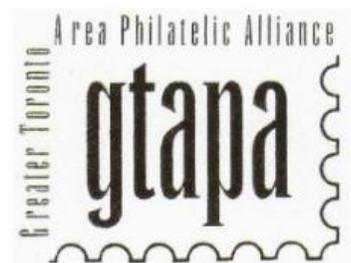
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## MAY LEARNING WORKSHOP

Our ninth Learning Workshop of the 2020-2021 season starting at 7 pm, Tuesday, May 4, 2021 via Zoom, is titled *The Art of Stamps*. Art, of course, takes varying forms and offers a wide range of opportunities for stamp collectors.

Here are a few topics to whet the interest of members when they Zoom into our next get-together:

- Paintings by famous artists on world stamps.
- Sculptures on world stamps, by famous artists or unknown artists from ancient times.
- Hand-done artwork on covers.
- Artwork on century-old covers and postcards made with a combination of drawings and stamps or cut-out portions of stamps, primarily in China and Japan.
- Artistic stamps created by master engravers such as Harold Osborn, who prepared the die for Canada's famous 1929 50-cent Bluenose definitive and — of course — Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005). Born in Poland, the world's most prolific stamp engraver produced more than 1,000 hand-tooled dies for definitives and commemoratives during a 60-plus-year career that began in his homeland before he moved to Sweden in 1956 to work for its post office. Slania also made engravings for other countries including Canada's 2002 \$5 banknote portrait of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, plus the portrait of Sir Robert Borden on the \$100 note first issued in 2004.
- Canadian artist's works on stamps, including five 2018 Great Canadian Illustrators commemoratives honouring Will Davies, Blair Dawson, Gérard DuBois, James Hill, and Anita Kunz.
- In the 'Current Canadian Art' category, while the two 2021 floral commemoratives feature colour photos of Crabapple Blossoms by Mark Olson, of Etobicoke, the subtle foliage backgrounds are based on paintings by Marie-Élaine Cusson, of Westmount, Quebec, whose artwork was used on several Canada Post stamps issued since 2016. This year's 'P' — Permanent Postage, 92¢ — floral commemoratives were printed in three formats; Five diecut self-stick 26-by-32-millimeter pairs in booklets; diecut 20-by-24 mm self-stick coil pairs; and a perforated se-tenant pair with moisture-activated gum on 120-by-84 mm souvenir sheets, with an enlarged photo of dark pink blossoms and green leaves on a branch, in front of a Cusson illustration of white and pink blossoms.

There are many types of art stamp subjects to consider, so brush off your tongs, open your albums or boxes of covers and share some of the best with one and all. As always, if you have a different idea than those on the above list, by all means jump aboard. Participation is the name of this game and sharing is our aim. We've achieved some memorable turnouts and the more, the merrier.

- Ian Robertson



1952 commemorative featuring famous 'Mona Lisa' 1452 portrait by Leonardo Da Vinci, issued by Germany for painting's 500th anniversary.



Six 1959 commemoratives issued by Greece featuring ancient sculptures.



Hand-illustrated patriotic 1944 cover to and from Brantford, Ont., featuring the Union Jack Flag and the British 'Bulldog.'



Pen-and-ink hand-drawn 1903 cover to England featuring Dutch man flying kite, with windmills and sailing ship in background.



1903-06 postcard with art created with drawing of boatman and portions of stamps cut to form shape of hull, sails, his pants, and woman wearing shawl sitting in front of him.

Century-old postcard with watercolour painting of young girl picking flowers, using cut-out of Yugoslavia 20-Paras definitive for her red dress.





2021 Canada Post souvenir sheet with two Crabapple Blossoms 'P' - Permanent Postage' - 92-cent commemoratives – art photography

Three of master engraver Czeslaw Slania's finest Swedish stamps in booklet, with undenominated tab marking his 70th birthday in 1991.

## WTSC MARKETPLACE: FREE/FOR SALE/WANTED

### WANTED:

I am looking for a couple of Machins for my collection.  
 10p greyish orange, regular perf. Narrow value  
 17p olive, elliptical perf.  
 25p salmon pink, regular perf.  
 26p post office red, regular perf. Narrow value  
 Please email [ted.swain@sympatico.ca](mailto:ted.swain@sympatico.ca) if you can help.

**WANTED:** First Day Cover of Canada Wildlife Habitat Duck FWH23. Contact Jim at [tazzwild@hotmail.com](mailto:tazzwild@hotmail.com)

**FOR SALE:** For your philatelic library-

*"The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland"* - Winthrop S. Boggs - a must have resource for the Newfoundland collector. Hardcover with dustjacket - Quarterman Publication Inc. 1975. Price \$25. or best offer.

*"The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada"* – Winthrop S. Boggs - a classic (out of print) reference for the serious Canadian collector- Hardcover with dustjacket Quarterman Publications Inc. 1974 - Price \$35- or best offer.

*"Canada Post Offices 1755/1895"* - Frank W. Campbell- an invaluable reference for the serious Canadian Collector – Quarterman Publications Inc 1972 – \$25 or best offer.

All books in fine condition - Contact Sid at [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com)