



Since 1935

Bulletin

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club
www.westtorontostampclub.org

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

Volume 86
Issue 453

August 2020

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

WTSC members have much to be thankful for and to eagerly anticipate, as we continue to adjust and pivot to meet the current challenges.

We can be thankful for our recent highly successful discussion group meeting via Zoom.

Club member Simon Claughton's presentation "The Amazing Story of Salyut 7 as Told by Postal History, Russian-Style" just excelled. Thank you Simon. We value your willingness to share and appreciated the time and effort you put forth for our benefit. Your presentation was most informative, demonstrating your philatelic expertise and extensive knowledge of space exploration. It was very well received by the thirty-one participants who signed in. Interestingly, seven were guests (six from other GTAPA clubs and one from out-of-country). Our capacity to reach beyond the WTSC membership is and will continue to be a positive as we meet virtually. For the benefit of those who could not attend, a summary of Simon's presentation can be found at page 8.

We can anticipate our next virtual discussion group meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm.

Please see page 6 for details. A Zoom invite with the needed link will be sent out a few days prior to the event. *To receive the invite link please email Garfield at garfield.portch@gmail.com or me at sidmensinga@gmail.com. Guests and visitors are most welcome!*

We can also anticipate our first virtual single page club exhibition to be held in October.

You can use the coming month to begin to plan and assemble a single page exhibit so that you can share and participate in this year's competition for the Frank Alusio Trophy. Having members share a one page philatelic story that reflected their interest or philatelic passion has always been a highlight at our past annual exhibitions. Plan to enter. Help from fellow members is readily available. In fact our September virtual learning workshop planned for Tuesday, September 8, will focus on the single page exhibit and will provide any help you may need.

Beginning this month we offer our circuit book enthusiasts a modified circuit book opportunity.

Simon and Victoria, our superb circuit book organizers and developers, are making this face-to-face, social distancing opportunity available on a limited basis. See page 4 for details.

The WTSC Bulletin will continue to be the primary means by which we communicate with members.

A special thank you to our editor Bob Timberg for his dedication, persistence, creativity, and philatelic expertise and knowledge which enable you to receive our highly regarded monthly bulletin.

To keep you updated: a recent conversation with Fairfield Centre staff confirms no change;

there is no new information re permit availability for the fall. That we may well not be able to meet face-to-face this fall appears, at this point, to be a reality. However we can be thankful for the initiatives and opportunities detailed in this bulletin and for the availability of Zoom technology.

Finally, last but not least, we wish to congratulate club member **Don Hedger** who received **Vermeils** for his two exhibits **Epic of Vimy - A Canadian Pilgrimage 1936** and **A Soldier's Postcards Mailed From The Somme & Flanders WWI May 1915 to April 1916** at **SAVPEX**, the South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition. Well done, Don! Club member **Robert Pinet** was the Canadian **member of the jury**.

Thoughts and ideas that will enabling us to further meet the philatelic needs of club members are always welcome and seriously considered.



Sid Mensinga

Quote of the Month

"The hobby prospers because of people who are willing to be involved in the trenches. Our problems are not going to be solved by a flash of brilliance, but rather by the work done day-by-day to make the hobby attractive to newcomers." *John Hotchner, a past president of the APS (1997-1999), from an interview posted on the APS Fb page, July 2, 2020*

Australia Bushfire Appeal

Earlier this year Glen Stephens of Glen Stephens Stamps in Australia challenged the philatelic community to raise funds to assist those involved in responding to the season's disastrous bushfires.

We took up the challenge. We placed items in the auctions of the three GTA clubs to which we belong, Bramalea, North Toronto, and West Toronto. Some members from the clubs also kindly put their lots into the appeal.

Club members bid generously and the executive of each club waived their club's commission. Cdn\$300.00 was raised, which converted to about Aus\$326.00.

Upon receiving the funds Glen Stephens waived all transaction costs and donated the exact amount to The Salvation Army Bushfire Appeal, a respected and highly trusted, very low overhead, national body who has organised a fleet of food and aid caravans in the areas of current devastation. A hot meal, a cup of coffee, a bottle of water, kind and compassionate words, etc., will not bring back anyone's home or livestock, sadly, but in a situation of shock and tragedy, it does show that someone cares, right there and then.

The same for the brave firefighters, who mostly are unpaid volunteers, who risk their lives to save others and their homes. These Salvation Army support vans might be able to assist them also, in some tiny way, and lift morale, if we help fund many more of them.

Thanks to those who put lots into the auctions with us, to all who bid, to club executives for waiving their commissions, and Glen Stephens for challenging philatelists and waiving transaction costs.

Simon and Victoria Claughton

If It Looks Like a Stamp, Is It Really a Stamp? Not Necessarily!

If it looks like a stamp, is perforated like a stamp and is on a cover, is it a stamp? Not necessarily. It could be a 'cinderella' — a term used for a non-postage stamp look-alike.

Though rarely seen on covers now, such labels were once fairly common, especially charity seals produced to raise funds for health relief. Some were perforated, others were imperforate. (See examples, upper right, and next page, upper left.)

The most common ones, begun in 1903, were Christmas seals, produced to raise funds for tuberculosis patient care. Several countries adopted the program, followed by other popular stamp-like charity labels that include Red Cross seals.



Imperial Oil company perforated label used on covers promoting 1943 Calgary Stampede

In Canada, the Easter Seals campaign raises money to enhance the "well-being, independence and quality of life" of disabled children, youth and adults.



1951 Kindersley, Sask. duplex cancel on Simpson's department store reply cover, with TB Christmas seal and 4-cent Princess Elizabeth/Prince Philip visit stamp tied by postmark



Hong Kong 1940 cover with Red Cross label for British War Organization on back, postmarked on back in Deroche, B.C. (upper - front of cover, lower - back)



1944 American cover with perforated artist's group stamp-like label promoting war bonds

Poster stamps printed to promote company products were also produced, and became particularly popular in Europe in the 1930s.

Major stamp exhibition organizers also had special perforated labels printed, often by a security printing firm that produced their country's postage stamps. Special events, such as airshows, sporting events and public fairs were sometimes sold, but in many cases were provided free by sponsors.



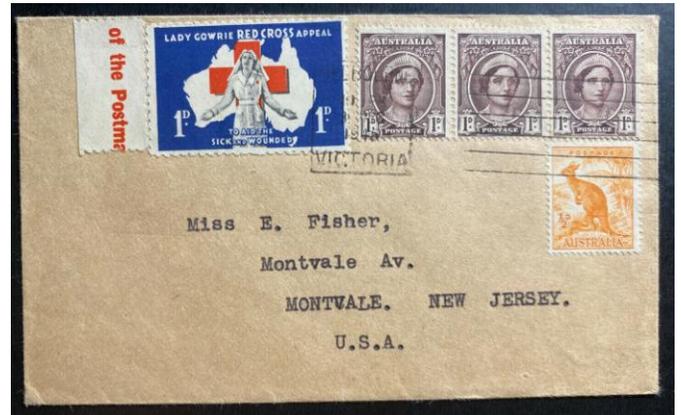
1930 Paris, France postmark-tied Aviation Exhibition label on cover franked with 5-centimes definitive



Bradbury Wilkinson engraved security printing firm's 1947 'cinderella' label featuring world's first stamp, the 1840 one-pence 'Penny Black', tied to cover with postmark-like cancel for National Stamp Exhibition in London, England

Most non-stamp labels are offered as mint singles, but some can be found with postmarks. (See, for example, the Paris cover to the left, middle.) While they were not supposed to be attached to the fronts of covers, many were, but posties rarely jumped on them unless the sender tried to cheat the system by using one instead of a postage stamp.

Covers with such labels make for fun collectibles and, with a bit of research, can provide an interesting story. Those tied to the fronts by a postmark are particularly sought-after by aficionados, since they were not supposed to be cancelled.



1945-postmarked 1-pence Australia Red Cross Society label produced to raise funds, featuring its president, Lady Zara Eileen Hore-Ruthven, Ireland-born Countess of Gowrie, wife of 1st Earl of Gowrie, Australia's governor-general 1936-44



1948 Sweden cover with imperforate poster stamp promoting 33rd Universal Esperanto Congress for aficionados of the most widely spoken constructed international auxiliary language

I couldn't resist bidding on two such covers offered on eBay, and was successful at the meagre sum of \$1.50 each. (See covers next page, upper left.) Posted a week apart in January, 1979 in Victoria, B.C. to a newspaper puzzle contest address in the provincial capital, each was franked with a perforated three-colour label featuring a different U.S. president. They were sold as decorative "Poster Stamps" by the Mystic Stamp Company, a mail-order business based in Camden, New York.



Two 1979 covers franked with U.S. mail-order stamp firm's 'Poster Stamps' featuring former presidents, Woodrow Wilson and George Taft, the latter which a postal clerk marked for 28 cents postage due

Each bears an apparent denomination at the bottom, representing each past-president's ranking as Washington's head honcho. The years in which each one served are printed at the top. The machine-applied postmarks on my two covers have seven parallel, horizontal wavy 'killer' bars that cancelled each label, plus a standard circular postmark to the left, above the hand-written destination.

One label, with a portrait of President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) and the number '28' that denoted his rank as leader of the country from 1913 to 1921, got through without being targeted for a postage due fee. The other, with a label featuring President William Howard Taft (1857-1930), who served from 1909 to 1913, plus the numeral '27', was intercepted and struck with a postal clerk's circular rubber 'T-28 CENTS' marker. In the absence of 14-cent Canadian postage, the penalty fee was double the first-class rate. Obviously one postie was alert to the intended chicanery.

Mystic recently advertised its latest sheet of Poster Stamps online, at \$9.50 U.S., with 44 labels. Barack Obama was the 44th president, followed by Donald Trump in 2016.

So which of my covers is more interesting? That depends. For me, the pair tell an interesting tale.

Ian Robertson

Club Circuit Books

During the past club circuit year (2019 – 2020), the club had fifteen sales events and ten cancellations due to the pandemic. Twenty-two members sold \$1,462.10 in stamps, covers, and postcards.

We are working on having the circuit fully ready for the next season, whenever meetings resume. In the interim, we encourage members to continue to prepare pages for the circuit. Pages can be dropped off at our office in the 401 / Dixie Road area of Mississauga.

Also, if members wish to examine the circuit books, we are happy to make arrangements for you to view them after regular office hours.

For any of the above, please contact Simon at [simon \(at\) berlet \(dot\) com](mailto:simon@berlet.com).

Simon and Victoria Claughton

From Toronto's First Post Office

Virtual Lecture - The Royal Mail from York

A virtual lecture on mail from the Town of York presented on June 25, 2020 by Zoé Delguste-Cincotta, Curator, Town of York Historical Society, the operator of Toronto's First Post Office (TFPO), is now available on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaaZnhuZ2TI&fbclid=IwAR0AvEq-yHRW5M0_eFrgAvZfwlz_pfbXjMpJ4gUjxGiFHph3nihwktJfF8Q

"2020 Mail Matters" Stamps

This past spring, TFPO held a contest that challenged young artists to draw Toronto's First Post Office in their own style, and share why mail matters to them.

Vanessa, age 11, won the contest. Her winning artwork depicted the front door of the post office in a "colourful and energetic style" and is being featured on a limited run of stamps. (See link below for an image of the stamp.)

The stamps are available for purchase for \$50 (sheet of 26) only from TFPO. A sheet includes a souvenir enlargement and proceeds will benefit the museum.

The stamps may be purchased at the post office counter at TFPO, or online at:

<https://torontos-first-post-office.myshopify.com/collections/postage/products/torontos-first-post-office-2020-mail-matters-stamps>

From Town of York Historical Society Newsletter, July 2020, Vol. XXXVI No.3

From NTSC

Virtual Presentation – A Philatelic Tour of Italy's Sorrento Region

If you missed Mattia Guida's presentation on July 9, it is now available on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nf0Mw0uxYUE>

Virtual Meeting – Members Show and Tell

On Thursday, August 13, at 7 pm, the NTSC is holding a members show and tell using Zoom. Guests are always welcome. For details and to request an invitation, please see:

<http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca/Events-Calendar/2020-programme/2020-08-13-virtual-meeting-members-show-and-tell>

From APS, ATA and AFDCS

Virtual Stamp Show

The APS, ATA and American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) will host a virtual stamp show from August 17 – 22, 2020. The show is free; registration is required via the APS website. For more information and to register, please see:

<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/news/post/introducing-the-virtual-stamp-show-free-registration-open-now>

From FIP Postal History Commission

Online Seminars

Seminars focused on postal history exhibiting are scheduled to be presented August – October 2020.

Sunday, August 16, 2:00 pm Berlin Time, Rarity and Condition, by Henrik Mouritsen

Sunday, September 6, 1:00 pm London Time, Presentation, by Chris King

Sunday, September 20, 10:00 am New York Time, Treatment, by Dan Walker

Sunday, October 4, 2:00 pm Berlin Time, Importance, by Henrik Mouritsen

Sunday, October 18, 9:00 pm Hong Kong Time, Knowledge and Research, by Andrew Cheung

To register for any of these seminars, contact Andrew Cheung, Postal History Commission Secretary, at amtc911@yahoo.com.hk

From David McLaughlin's newsletter, *The International Exhibitor*, August 2020

Second Quarterly Packs Have Hard-to-Get 2020 Stamps

By the third week of July, many post offices had still not received 2020 commemoratives issued in April and June. Despite a decline in first-class letter mail in recent years, collectors of modern Canadian stamps still like to use them on envelopes, so their absence is disappointing.

But wait, all is not lost. While visiting my local retail postal outlet, I learned the four issues initially produced for release during those months are now available as singles in Canada Post's second Quarterly Packs. All of the "P" — 92-cent — stamps sold in booklets have die-cut simulated perfs, and self-stick adhesive on peelable backing.

With a face value totalling \$17.48, each quarterly pack contains an Eid stamp; two Victory-in-Europe commemoratives; seven Group of Seven 100th anniversary singles; two History of Radio stamps; plus the Group of Seven seven-stamp \$6.44 souvenir sheet produced with pin perfs and moisture-activated gum. Protective cardboard packets containing those issues were posted in late June to collectors with standing order accounts.

Distribution of commemoratives has been delayed due to the covid-19 pandemic. Two planned issues, Vintage Travel Posters, plus Canadian Ballet Legends, have been postponed, Canada Post announced. For the latest update on previously-announced commemoratives planned for release this summer and fall, see page 7.

Available 2020 stamps and official First Day Covers can be ordered from the Philatelic Customer Service, P.O. Box 90022, Canada Post Place, 2701 Riverside Drive, OTTAWA, Ont. K1V 1J8; online at www.canadapost.ca; or by telephoning 1-800-565-4362 toll-free.

Ian Robertson



Clockwise from upper left, Eid 'P' commemorative, Victory-in-Europe 'P' commemorative, Group of Seven seven-stamp souvenir sheet, Group Of Seven 'P' stamps in booklet of 7, Se-tenant pair History of Radio in Canada 'P' booklet commemoratives

David Feldman Auctioneers

David Feldman International Auctioneers, based in Geneva, Switzerland, has appointed well-known philatelic judge and exhibitor Bill Schultz of West Chester, Pennsylvania, as its agent for the United States and Canada. We extend congratulations to Bill, and to club member Robert Pinet who will be Bill's Canadian assistant.

Covid-19-Related Philately

Canada Post Return to Sender Labels

I have access to quite a few philatelic newsletters from around the world and am constantly amazed at the number of philatelists outside Canada interested in Canadian postal history. For example, in the June 2020 issue of *Royal Lines*, the newsletter of the RPSNZ, Lindsay Chitty FRPSNZ asked for details on Canada Post's use of return to sender labels during the covid-19 pandemic, including examples. In case anyone can help, a link to the newsletter follows. Ed. <https://www.rpsnz.org.nz/images/stories/royal/Newsletters/nl202006.pdf>

Chain Letters

I have put chain letters under covid-19-related philately, although it doesn't quite fit. "Defined broadly as messages designed to be passed on for alternatively self-serving, altruistic or nefarious purposes, chain letters have taken an array of forms over the centuries. Now, amid the covid-19 pandemic, the polarizing mode of communication is enjoying a renaissance, with individuals stuck at home forwarding [using social media] recipe chains, inspirational quotes, photo challenges and other ostensibly comforting prompts to their friends and family." Ed.

Do you want to know the history of chain letters? Then read this article from the Smithsonian Magazine, July 2, 2020.

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/chain-letters-swept-internet-they-raised-funds-orphans-and-conveyed-messages-god-180975005/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=socialmedia&fbclid=IwAR36CXnQGXD1yoy_QoABh8qJLS3h1L_3Q9G5K5H7An3UG42eLfVBemMc0w0

WTSC Board of Directors

President: Sid Mensinga
Vice-President: Ian Robertson
Past President: Frank Alusio
Secretary: Rhonda Kavanagh
Treasurer: Lawrence Pinkney
Membership: Patricia Blanchard

Directors: Simon Cloughton, Fred Colbourn, Jose Restrepo, Rob Taylor, Bob Timberg

Next WTSC Virtual Meeting

Our next online meeting, on **August 18**, at 7 pm, will feature a presentation by our own Garfield Portch on **Forensic Philately: A 2020 Update**. It will touch on topics such as, why get stamps expertized? What is the process and who makes the decisions? Advantages of forensic analysis. Some notable philatelic examples.

The presentation will run about 45 minutes. Those planning to attend must register in advance to receive the Zoom link. See Sid's message (page 1) for details.

Anyone needing help with Zoom can contact Garfield at 416-561-0385 or garfield.portch@gmail.com. There will be lots of time for questions. Guests are welcome.

From Canadian Stamp News

National Postage Stamp and Coin Show

On July 31 Trajan, not unexpectedly, announced the cancellation of its fall show due to the pandemic.

https://canadianstampnews.com/trajans-fall-national-show-cancelled/?fbclid=IwAR2TnipT8nJDH1MCQIKN3va_kAPI8BhV9ZfdJkhkbWKhIe8pCeMEIwgIEAs

WTSC

WTSC members have figured prominently in several recent stories in CSN. In this story for instance, Sid Mensinga and Garfield Portch compare exhibiting in a virtual space versus a physical space.

<https://canadianstampnews.com/exhibiting-virtually-vs-physically/?fbclid=IwAR3MKtpwqg3CLn6JQJOVrrpqKRT-9r4pRB-VwjTd8CMCrxz0zdFfvbjOKs>

Postal History of Clubs

Ian Robertson has pointed out that eBay often has items for sale showing club history. Two are shown here, the top one from the Calgary Philatelic Society, and the lower one from the Ford Motor Stamp Club.



In Days of Stamps Long Past

Once upon a pretty stamp
I licked the back and got it damp.
Stuck it down and firmly pressed
Hoped the cancel, light not messed.
Could it be mounted, bright and cheery?
Or tossed away, all smudged and bleary.

Nowadays it's hard to tell
If a stamp will come, fresh and swell.
Time once was a postie took
A moment extra, by the book.
Took the 'hammer,' lightly inked
And struck it true, in a second's blink.

Once you read the town name, there
Instead of now, you know not where.
The letters come, the letters go,
A postal code is all you know.
Little dots are splattered down
Giving Liz, the Queen, a frown.

Explain, again, your hobby's likes
Some posties treat us much like tykes.
Others now, we treasure dearly,
Agree to cancel stamps quite clearly.
They understand it's all the same
And thank you kindly, glad you came.



Ian Robertson

Updated Final List of Canadian 2020 Commemoratives

Canada Post recently updated its schedule for stamps to be issued by the end of 2020. The release of new issues has been affected by COVID-19, resulting in changes to the program plus many post offices not receiving new commemoratives.

- September 10: Medical Groundbreakers.
- September 21: Canada Post Community Foundation semi-postal.
- October 15: Diwali, the annual five-day Hindu festival of lights during the lunar months of Ashvina and Karttika (October–November), also called Dipawali.
- October 28: Mary Matilda Riter Hamilton (1867-1954), a Toronto- and Europe-trained artist born in Teeswater, Ontario who was sent to Europe by the

newly-founded Amputation Club of British Columbia — predecessor of The War Amps — to depict the First World War's aftermath, and completed more than 350 paintings depicting battle sites where Canadians fought in Belgium and France between 1919 and 1922. Published, exhibited and donated to war veterans plus what is now Library and Archives Canada, her works were the largest collection of Canadian First World War paintings by a single artist, displaying "themes of destruction and renewal and were painted in an impressionist style, favouring colour and form over detail," Emily Gwiazda wrote in the Canadian Encyclopedia.

- November 2: A set of religious-theme Christmas commemoratives showing Nativity scenes.
- November 2: Secular Christmas-theme commemoratives with folk art by artist Maud Kathleen Lewis (1903-1970), who lived most of her life in poverty, with advancing arthritis — painting on a variety of surfaces including clam shells, dust pans and walls of her one-bedroom home in Digby, Nova Scotia.
- November 5: A Hanukkah stamp commemorating the rededication of the Temple in 165 BC after its desecration by the Syrians, with the eight-day Jewish festival marked by daily lighting of a candle.

Previously-announced 2020 issues which were postponed, include:
Legends of Ballet, with no revised release date provided; and
Vintage Travel Posters, now proposed for release in June, 2021.

Ian Robertson



Clockwise from upper left, artist Mary Riter Hamilton; painting by Mary Riter Hamilton of two temporary crosses beside partially-destroyed wall in Europe during World War One; artist Maud Kathleen Lewis.

July 21, Our First Virtual Discussion Group Meeting - The Amazing Story of Salyut 7 as Told by Simon Claughton Using Postal History, Russian-Style

Those who attended the club's first online discussion group meeting were treated to a stellar presentation by club member Simon Claughton. Drawing on his collection of Russian postal history, Simon told the amazing story of the Russian manned space station Salyut-7. It really was amazing - both the space station and the presentation.

Simon began collecting stamps in 1968 when he inherited his grandfather's collection. He is a member of eleven philatelic organizations, including BNAPS, RPSC, and the West Toronto, Bramalea and North Toronto clubs in the GTA.

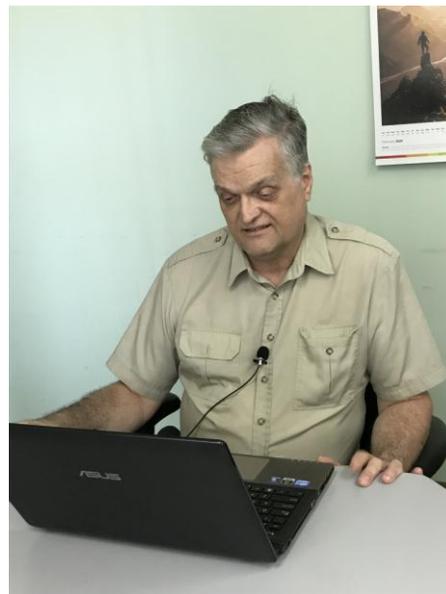
In addition to stamps, Simon and his wife Victoria, also a philatelist, are keenly interested in astronomy and space exploration. Both are members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), where Simon has often presented on philatelic topics. Simon is also a licensed amateur radio operator.

Simon's presentation lasted forty minutes and used approximately forty-eight slides. As it isn't possible in this short note to display and talk about every slide, Simon kindly identified eight that will provide a broad overview of his presentation. A brief review of the history of Salyut-7 follows to set the stage for the eight slides.

Salyut-7 launched on April 19, 1982 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in the then Soviet Union. It was similar to its predecessor Salyut-6 in equipment and capabilities but had a greater ability to conduct experiments due to increased size and payload. It was the last Soviet/Russian single module space station.

The space station was in use by cosmonaut crews for just over four years and in orbit for almost nine. It was visited by twenty-two cosmonauts (including French and Indian) from ten crews. Five cosmonauts visited twice and one three times. Eleven Soyuz T and fifteen Progress supply spacecraft made a total of twenty-five dockings and three redockings. Two missions were long duration - 211 and 237 days. During 861 total days of piloted flight, thirteen EVA's were conducted.

On August 19-22, 1986, Salyut-7, while unmanned, was moved to a 474 km x 492 km orbit, where it was assumed to be safe. But greater than expected solar activity resulted in ballooning of the atmosphere. Increased drag eventually caused its orbit to decay. It burned up in the atmosphere in early February 1991.



Simon Claughton

As mentioned, Salyut-7 (unmanned) launched into orbit from the Baikonur Cosmodrome on April 19, 1982. It was the ninth Russian and last single module space station. The commemorative cover for the launch (Figure 1) shows the Proton launch rocket on the left, and the stamp on the upper right has an image of its predecessor Salyut-6 (1977 Scott # 4591). The cover is cancelled at Baikonur. The space station had a height of 14.40 metres (47.2 feet) and a span of 17.0 metres (55 feet). Its gross weight was 19,824 kilograms or 43,704 pounds. Unfueled, it weighed 18,624 kilograms (41,058 pounds).



Fig. 1

On May 13, 1982, Expedition 1 launched in Soyuz T-5 to the space station with Anatoli Berezovoy and Valentin Lebedev aboard. The mission lasted 211 days. The commemorative cover for the expedition is shown in Figure 2 (next page, upper left). The stamp has an image of Yuri Gagarin (1981 Scott # 4925).

A little over a month later, on June 24, 1982, a Visiting Expedition launched in Soyuz T-6. Aboard were Vladimir Dzhanibekov, Aleksandr Ivanchenkov, and Jean-Loup Chrétien of France. Chrétien was the first from the west to fly on a Russian spacecraft. The mission lasted 8 days. The commemorative cover for

the flight is Figure 3.



Fig. 2



Fig.3

Two months later, on August 19, a second Visiting Expedition launched (Figure 4). Aboard Soyuz T-7 for an eight day mission were Leonid Popov, Aleksandr Serebrov, and Svetlana Savitskaya. Savitskaya became only the second woman to fly into space, and the first woman to fly on a space station. Popov was active in the space program from 1970 to 1987. During his career he spent 200.6 days in space. The stamp shows Gagarin and the Soyuz and Salyut stations (1977 Scott # 4562).



Fig. 4

Expedition 2 launched in Soyuz T-9 on June 27, 1983 for a 149 day mission carrying Vladimir Lyakhov and Aleksandr Aleksandrov. While the cover (Figure 5) is cancelled June 27, 1983, the stamp used was not issued until June of 1984!



Fig. 5

Figure 6 shows supply mission Progress 19, which launched on February 21, 1984 and returned to earth the following month on March 31, landing by parachute. However, the supply ship in fact burned up over the Pacific Ocean!



Fig. 6

The covers in figures 7 and 8 (next page, column to left) both depict Visiting Expeditions. In the former, the Visiting Expedition launched in Soyuz T-11 on April 3, 1984 carrying Yury Malyshev, Gennady Strekalov, and Rakesh Sharma of India for eight days. Sharma was the first Indian cosmonaut.

In the latter (Figure 8), the Visiting Expedition launched in Soyuz T-12 with Vladimir Dzhanibekov, Igor Volk, and Svetlana Savitskaya aboard on July 17, 1984 for a twelve day mission. Savitskaya was on her second mission to Salyut-7. She became the first woman to fly twice, the first woman to fly twice to a space station, and on July 25 the first woman to perform an EVA and work in space.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Some are of the view that Salyut-7 was much less successful than its predecessor Salyut-6. It was beset by various technical problems that crews had to deal with, constantly.

According to the literature, equipment carried on Salyut-7 included "Unitary Propulsion/RCS Systems, Kurs Rendezvous/Docking System, 24 hr hot water, and a food refrigerator. Experimental Equipment included the Kristal materials processing furnace; EFO-7 star electrophotometer; an Improved Oasis plant growth unit; an Aelita cardiovascular diagnostic unit; a French echography ultrasonic medical system; and a Korund semiconductor materials furnace. Military experiments conducted with equipment delivered aboard TKS modules included observations of ground aerosols; ABM intercept detection and tracking equipment; naval exercises; and laser pointing/tracking hardware tests." All that seems to make for a productive station, regardless of the difficulties that crews encountered.

Simon, thank you again for an amazing story about an amazing space station. To echo the words of Garfield at the end of the presentation, it was a very successful, great beginning to our virtual discussion group meetings. Ed.

A Final Word From the Editor

Most of us have had our lives disrupted by the pandemic. Some have also been affected by the heat and humidity that have blanketed the GTA for days on end - 30 days above 30C and 15 tropical nights (low temperatures above 20C) as of August 3, whereas a typical summer in the GTA experiences 12 and 4 days, respectively.

We expect philately has provided a measure of comfort in these topsy-turvy days and a welcome break from the daily news and the weather.

In that vein, we hope you found something in August's newsletter that caught your interest, and we look forward to seeing many of you at the club's August 18 online meeting.

Stay safe and healthy everyone.

