



Bulletin

Since 1935

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 **448**

Feb 2020

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

Because I was out of the country in early January, I unfortunately missed the well received, informative learning workshop presented by American Philatelic Society (APS) guests Scott Tiffney, Director of Information Services, and Gary Loew, Director of Expertizing. When visiting Texas in January, I often get out to "Half Off Books" in search of back copies of the APS Journal, *The American Philatelist*. This year I had no success but was pleased, upon my return, to receive the APS 2019 August and September copies from a fellow WTSC member. The APS monthly journal is an excellent magazine with superb content. Gary Loew's September column entitled *Identifying Your Stamps from Images* has a lesson for all of us. Gary points to the need to know what differentiates one stamp from another especially when the catalogue lists multiple types and subtypes for the same image. Yes, we may eventually need assistance from an expertizing committee. However, with the stamp in hand and having knowledge of shades, perforations, paper types, watermarks, printings, etc., one can often make a precise identification. This article again underscored the importance of acquiring in-depth knowledge about a particular stamp or definitive issue through reading and personal research; enjoyable tasks that take time and require readily available reference material.

Being given a magazine from a fellow club member is not only appreciated but also a great way of sharing knowledge and resources, and definitely generates enthusiasm and broadens interests. Consider divesting yourself of surplus reference material and magazines by bringing them to a club meeting and giving them to fellow collectors. This, for many of us, is also an effective way to control the ever increasing philatelic stuff we are finished with, that can so easily clog up our stamp rooms.

And by the way, check out the APS website www.stamps.org

WTSC 85 – YES, 2020 IS THE YEAR!

I was recently reminded that 2020 marks the 85th anniversary of our club. One way we will celebrate this momentous event is to provide each member with a commemorative **85th Anniversary Pin**. We will also create a **Commemorative Cover with picture postage** using the selected pin design and other cachet design elements. Commemorative picture

postage will be made available to members at cost.

WTSC members are invited to submit WTSC 85th anniversary pin and cachet designs by March 24, 2020. This will provide sufficient production time and the opportunity to display submissions received and have members vote to select the winning commemorative designs.

We are also considering how we as a club might give back to the hobby in some tangible way. Your Ideas are always welcome and can be submitted to me at sidmensinga@gmail.com

The WTSC 85th anniversary celebration date and further details will be provided as available.

February Activities

Meetings are held on Tuesday evening. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and meetings start at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise specified.

Feb 4 ~ Learning Workshop (starts at 7)
King George V - Monarch of Philately

Feb 11 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show and tell, and auction

Feb 18 ~ Discussion Group (starts at 7)
Club member **Garfield Portch** will discuss **Exhibiting Basics** to help members prepare for the club's May exhibition.

Feb 25 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show and tell, and auction

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

February Learning Workshop

Our fifth Learning Workshop of the 2019-20 season at 7 pm, Tuesday, February 4, is titled 'King George V - Monarch of Philately.'

This year marks the 110th anniversary of King George V becoming monarch of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, also as Emperor of India, after the death in the evening of May 6, 1910 of his father, King Edward VII.

With George Frederick Ernest Albert on the throne for almost 26 years, there were numerous definitives, plus commemoratives issued by members of the British Commonwealth.



Bermuda 1910 six shillings & six pence -- 2/6 - King George V definitive (left) and 1914 Australia red one-penny King George V definitive with kangaroo and emu on either side of portrait, plus a sprig of the wattle plant (Acacia), and a crown (right)



Bicolor engraved British South Africa - Rhodesia - two shilling King George V 1913 definitive (left) and 1933 Southern Rhodesia 1 1/2-pence King George V engraved, chocolate-colored definitive (right)

Canada's first stamps featuring him got off to a slow start. Printed in various single colours, and with numerous printing varieties, the engraved definitive series was introduced in December, 1911, based on composite photos of him in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Navy, by Walter Barnett and W. & D. Downey of London, England. The set remains very popular with collectors.

The 'Admiral' series was replaced in 1928 by one featuring the King in three-quarter forward profile.

With medium- and high-value stamps showing scenes across Canada, the 'Scroll' series — so-called because of the curved horizontal bar at the top — were succeeded by the 'Arch-Leaf' series in 1930 which, in turn, was replaced by the 1932 'Medallion' set, that show him in profile. They were replaced in 1935 by a set reproducing the earlier three-quarter profile design.



\$1 King George V 'Admiral' definitive is highest denomination in popular Canadian set (upper left); six of Canada's 1928 'Scroll' set of King George V definitives (bottom); and pair of King George V 1930 2-cent 'Arch-Leaf' coils, with 'cockeyed' king variety on left (upper right)

In that year, which marked the king's 25-year reign, numerous British Commonwealth countries including Newfoundland ordered sets of still-popular bi-colour Silver Jubilee' commemoratives. The omnibus set shows him on the right side, beside an engraving of Windsor Castle. Not all followed suit, for example: India's versions have a different frame around the king, and feature buildings in that country; Nauru had non-royal stamps overprinted "His Majesty's Jubilee 1920-1935;" and Southwest Africa ordered bilingual stamps with his profile portrait in the centre.

Canada released six 1935 commemoratives. One shows King George V beside his wife, Queen Mary. Three others included their sons, the future King Edward VIII and that monarch's successor, King George VI, plus one of the latter's eldest daughter, future Queen Elizabeth II, as a young princess.



Popular 1935 King George V 'Silver Jubilee' bi-colour commemoratives were issued by numerous British Commonwealth countries

Following King George V's death, he was buried in the Royal Vault beneath St. George's Chapel in Windsor. His wife is also buried there.

As Duke of York, he began what became The Royal Philatelic Collection in the late 1800s — reportedly spending three afternoons per week on his hobby. King George V became vice-president of the future Royal Philatelic Society London.

"The anecdotal record suggests he had a keen eye for design and took a close and at times rather technical interest" in his collection, using his own funds to acquire stamps, Simon Heffer wrote in The Telegraph of London, England in 2010. As the king, he was sent proofs of proposed issues and many of his recommendations were accepted, including printing the famous "Seahorse" British stamps using the intaglio process instead of cheaper, less-attractive typography.



Top denomination of King George V 'Seahorse' definitives launched in 1918 is the £1

On a Canadian note, when the Duke of York was with the Royal Navy, he stayed in 1884 at the still-open Hillsdale House inn in Annapolis Royal during a four-day fishing trip.

With these crowning touches in mind, and the potential for sharing numerous stamps — including Canadian definitives with "cockeyed king" varieties — plus covers, come one and all to the library of the

Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Ave, Etobicoke.

By George, it should be an interesting evening.

Ian

(Son of J.W. Robertson, born in Montreal early on May 6, 1910)

2020 Shows (GTA & Vicinity)

North Toronto Stamp Club's **Spring Postage Stamp Bourse** will take place in Toronto on **March 14**.

<http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca/Events-Calendar/2020-programme>

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **April 4 - 5**.

<https://stampandcoinshow.com/>

ORAPEX 2020, the 59th edition of the **Ottawa RA Centre Philatelic Exhibition (ORAPEX)**, will take place in **Ottawa** on **May 2 - 3**.

<http://www.orapex.ca/>

The **PHSC Symposium 2020** will take place in **Hamilton** and vicinity on **July 15 - 19**.

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **September 12 - 13**.

CANPEX 2020 will take place in **London** on **October 31 - November 1**.

<http://www.canpex.ca/>

The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's **Toronto Day of Aerophilately** will take place in **Toronto** at the Greene on **November 1** from 11:15 am - 4 pm.

North Toronto Stamp Club's **Winter Postage Stamp Bourse** will take place in Toronto on **November 14**.

<http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca/Events-Calendar/2020-programme>

Harry Sutherland Hours

Hours for the Harry Sutherland Library at the Greene are 10 am to 4 pm Monday through Thursday, and one Saturday a month - February 15, March 14 (for the North Toronto Stamp Club bourse), and April 11.

Late closing (7 pm) on certain Wednesdays to coincide with the monthly GTAPA meeting - February 26, March 25, April 22.

Before visiting, always check the Greene's web site for last minute changes.

<http://www.greenefoundation.ca/>.

CAPEX '22

David McLaughlin has provided an update.

"First, we received good news on New Year's Day that the FIP board were satisfied with the supplementary information provided and that final approval of FIP recognition status was granted.

Second, continued inquiries about the availability of space at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) resulted in obtaining a proposal for the Constitution Hall on Level 100 in the North Building. For the MTCC location we will need to advance the date by 1 week to June 9-12 [2022] as their facilities are fully booked for June 16-19.

We have a contract from MTCC and valid for acceptance until February 20, 2020."

January Learning Workshop

Last month the club was pleased to welcome from the American Philatelic Society, St. Catharines, Ontario native Scott Tiffney, Director of Information Services, and Gary Loew, Director of Expertizing. They outlined to a packed room the services available from the APS to members and others.

The two hour meeting flew by in what felt like mere minutes, and could easily have continued several hours more.

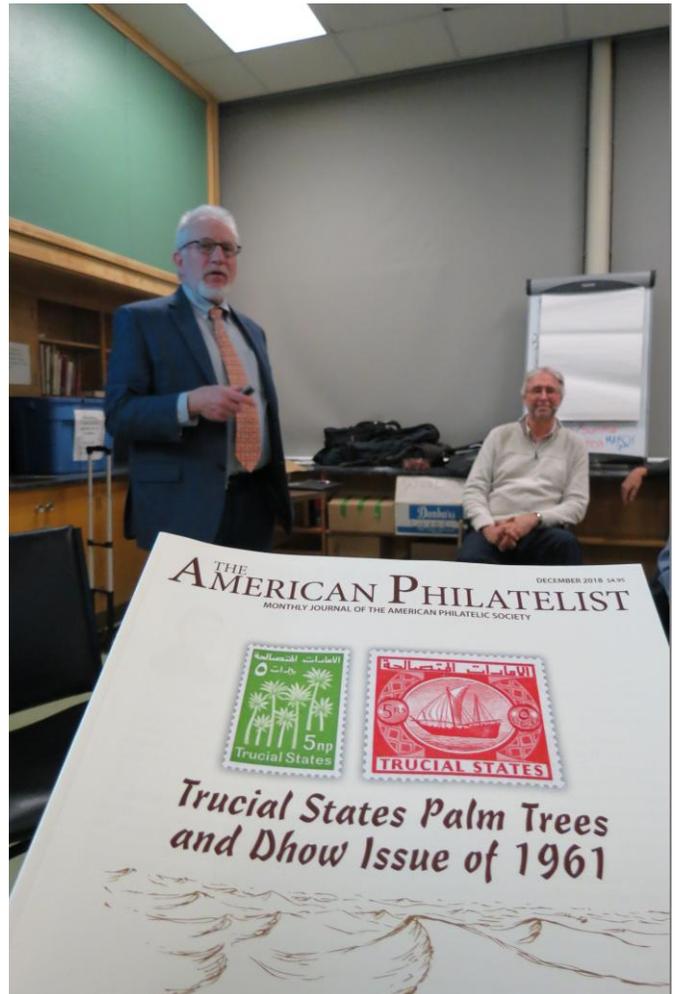
I (editor) walked away from the evening thinking to myself, 'what a superb organization, what great ambassadors Scott and Gary are', and making a mental note to visit APS headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, soon.

The APS has about 28,000 members. Slightly over 600 are in Canada.

The following photos are courtesy Ian Robertson.



Scott Tiffney, APS Director of Information Services, presented to a full house at the January 7, 2020 learning workshop



Gary Loew, APS Director of Expertizing (left), and Scott Tiffney, APS Director of Information Services, explained advantages of membership in the APS at the January 7, 2020 learning workshop

APS 2020 Challenge

In late December 2019 the APS announced an ambitious recruitment campaign for 2020. The goal is to recruit 2020 new members this year. As an incentive and a thank you, three life memberships are being offered.

APS Members: For every new member an APS member recommends, their name will be entered into a drawing to win a free life membership.

Dealers and Chapters: For every successful new recruitment, the dealer or chapter name will be entered into a separate dealer/chapter drawing for a free life membership.

New Members: All new members recruited in 2020 will be entered into a drawing for a free life membership.

https://stamps.org/blog/post/2020-challenge-a-chance-to-win-free-life-memberships/fbclid/iwar0yinlhquhwnv21ps_ixdltlby4a-9r_jnnkoft_r6oad6wnltso5wfrts

A Topic for Research?

A Facebook posting by the National Postal Museum on December 22 last year caught my attention. It read (emphasis added):

"At the turn of the 20th century, the [U.S.] Post Office Department contracted dog sled teams to transport mail to the Territory of Alaska and **regions of Canada largely occupied by Americans**. The Yukon Gold Rush had flooded these remote areas with prospectors who relied on the dog sled teams for provisions and contact with the outside world, especially during the harsh winter months when travel was difficult and dangerous. The most commonly used sled dogs were Malamutes, Huskies, St. Bernards, and Newfoundlands - breeds known for their heartiness and thick coats. Mail carriers and their dogs were well respected on the trail and offered preferential lodging at road houses along their routes, with lead dogs sleeping inside. Contract mail carrier Ed Biederman used this dogsled [photo in Facebook posting] from 1922-1935 for his 160-mile route between Circle and Eagle, Alaska. His son took over from 1935-1938. The sled remained in the family and was donated to the National Postal Museum in 1995. The picture postcards [in Facebook posting] are dated 1905, 1910, and 1919 respectively. Airplanes largely replaced the dogsled teams by the late 1930s."

The question that came to mind was, how many other instances have there been of the USPS providing mail service on Canadian territory? The example identified by the NPM may not be the only one. This topic could form the basis for a fascinating article and exhibit for someone willing to undertake the research. Ed.

Cape Town 2021

The letter below was received by David McLaughlin of the RPSC from the organizing committee of Cape Town 2021 and was printed in the January 2020 issue of David's International Exhibitor newsletter. It is reprinted here for the information of members. They may find interesting the mention of Nelson Mandela, and the planned involvement of children in the exhibition.

I am writing to advise your readers about the international philatelic exhibition that we're planning for Cape Town in March, 2021. It will be the first show held in South Africa under the patronage of the FIP since 1936.

The show will feature one of the most important documents in South Africa's history; a letter written by Nelson Mandela in 1985 rejecting an offer of freedom. Unbeknownst to most South Africans, the government offered Mandela freedom as long as he accepted it as a citizen of the homeland of Transkei. Mandela rejected the offer as a matter of principle; and the rest is history.

We are honoured to announce that former president Kgalema Motlanthe has accepted our invitation to be our Chief Patron. He is very fondly remembered and has founded the Motlanthe Foundation which aims to foster creative solutions to the problems of nation building in our country.

Cape Town 2021 will also feature a stamp design competition for children in Grade 11. The design competition will be part of the school curriculum; and the winning design will be issued as a special stamp and released on the first day of the exhibition in 2021. We are working to ensure that thousands of school children are given a chance to visit the historic documents in the Court of Honour during the exhibition.

Annual Club Exhibition

May will soon be upon us, and that brings our annual club exhibition. If you have never exhibited, and have thought about it, or are just curious, this is the year to give it a try. Our club exhibition is fun and rewarding.

An exhibit tells a story using your stamps, covers and philatelic-related items. The story can be about anything – a stamp or set of stamps, an event, etc., etc. You get the picture; it can be about anything that interests you.

There are many serious exhibitors in our club. Don't be intimidated. Everyone starts with a simple exhibit. Some proceed to competitive exhibiting, but many stay at the club level which is much more informal than the competitive world.

Let's try for five new exhibitors this year, members who have never exhibited before. Can we do it?

The Great Race of Mercy

Ninety-five years ago, in 1925, between January 27 and February 5, a contingent of mushers worked a miracle. This story is courtesy Mystic Stamp Company, and has a connection to the mail as you will see.

"On February 2, 1925, a sled dog team took the Iditarod Trail to deliver a much-needed diphtheria antitoxin to Nome, Alaska, following a deadly outbreak.

Settlers flocked to Alaska in the 1920s following a gold strike. They traveled to coastal towns by boat, but the forbidding winter closed roads to the goldfields. The only way to travel in the winter was in sleds pulled by dog teams. The Iditarod Trail soon became the major thoroughfare, carrying people, supplies, and mail much like the Pony Express once did.

In 1925, sled dog teams and the Iditarod Trail were center stage. Isolated from the outside world, Nome experienced a diphtheria outbreak. Diphtheria is a

contagious upper respiratory illness that can only be treated with an antitoxin or prevented with a vaccine. At the time, Nome only had one doctor and four nurses to deal with the outbreak. Dr. Welch had a small supply of diphtheria antitoxin, but it wasn't enough and it was expired. He feared using the expired cure could cause more harm than good. The town was then placed under quarantine.

Dr. Welch was desperate to save his town, so he sent out dozens of telegrams asking people to send him the antitoxin. The closest large supply was found in Anchorage, but that was still hundreds of miles away. And there were no roads or railroads between the towns, flying wasn't an option and neither was traveling by ship. The only solution was the Iditarod Trail.

With no other options, Alaska's Territorial Governor approved a relay in which the 20 best mail carrier mushers and 150 dogs would make the 674-mile journey. That journey usually took 15 to 20 days, but they were going to try to make the trip much faster. By this time, the story was international news and people around the world would follow the progress closely.

The trip began on January 27 when the first musher picked up the antitoxin at the nearest train station. Over the next five days, these mushers rode day and night through blizzards and -50-degree temperatures. The antitoxin reached Nome at 5:30 am on February 2. The entire journey had been completed in five days, seven hours.

Dr. Welch immediately began administering the antitoxin and the quarantine was lifted within two weeks. Five children had died during the epidemic, but the delivery of the antitoxin helped prevent countless more deaths.

Everyone that participated in the relay received letters of thanks from President Calvin Coolidge as well as gold medals from the HK Mulford Company. The musher and dogs who completed the last leg of the journey became celebrities. The lead dog, Balto, then starred in a 30-minute film, *Balto's Race to Nome*. He was also honored with a statue in Central Park.

One of the results of the race was that it helped lead to the Kelly Act (signed on February 2, 1925). The act allowed private aviation companies to bid on airmail delivery contracts. Within a decade, airmail routes were established in Alaska."

Oxford Philatelic Society

Simon and Victoria will be bringing our club circuit books to the Wednesday, February 12 meeting of the Oxford Philatelic Society ("OPS") in Woodstock. WTSC members are invited to attend as guests.

According to the club's web site, the OPS was founded

in 1949 and was originally the Woodstock Stamp Club. The club held its first stamp exhibition, consisting of 12 picture frames of various sizes, in 1951. In 1981 the club hosted the first all Ontario topical show, and today OTEX is part of every OXPEX. OXPEX/OTEX is held every March and has approximately 140 competitive frames per show.

The meeting on February 12 begins at 7:30 pm at the South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington Street South, Woodstock N4S 3J2.

The agenda is:

Attendance Draw/Dave's Quiz
Stamp Grab/Draw Prizes
News/Reviews & Upcoming Shows, Stamp Share
West Toronto Circuit Books
Learn About Tagging & Phosphorous

The OPS is RPSC chapter 65.

Monthly Quote

"Stamps are a portal into history; highlighting human achievement, diversity and inclusion." *APS Facebook posting, January 20, 2020*

Humour

A club member forwarded this piece of humour to round out the newsletter. It is non-philatelic, but sure to bring a smile to your face.

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Wonder no more!!

It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintaining a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into and buried.

After packing the ice back in the hole, the male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow. Freeze a jolly good fellow."

There are many myths about penguins. To understand the reality, see:

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20151223-if-you-think-penguins-are-cute-and-cuddly-youre-wrong>

