



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

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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

I am writing my message one week before Christmas. By the time you receive the bulletin, you should have received your WTSC 85th anniversary commemorative cover. It was mailed on December 15, 2020.



WTSC 85th anniversary commemorative cover mailed December 15, 2020 (above) and insert (below).

As noted in the insert, the 85th WTSC anniversary pin will be distributed once we can again meet face to face. (Considering our demographic and the expected continuance of restrictions, I anticipate that will occur no earlier than September 2021.)

These commemorative items will hopefully cause you to look back over the years with pride and forward with anticipation. Even though our celebration was less than what it might have been, the success of this anniversary project - the outstanding cachet design, the cover and insert production and printing, the label making and mailing, as well as the excellent pin designs and pin production - underscores the pride, excellence and fine team work that exist at the WTSC.

Our ability to pivot to online meetings, to hold a virtual single page exhibition, to continue circuit book opportunities, and to produce superb monthly WTSC bulletins, all add to the positives of the past year in spite of the restrictions we faced. These are encouragements to build upon as we do our best to meet the stamp collecting needs of the WTSC membership and the larger philatelic community in 2021.

Your active participation as collectors, postal historians and exhibitors is encouraging and makes WTSC one of the best in the country. As we move into 2021, consider joining your fellow collectors by attending our virtual monthly discussion group evenings and learning workshop sessions.

This past year we have enjoyed many fine speakers and times of sharing during our virtual meetings. The December session with Alec Globe was again most informative. Alec's presentation demonstrated that previous in-depth research, various types of knowledge both historical and philatelic, careful observation, online resources, and specialized equipment and research facilities as found at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation are critical to the understanding of a cover to determine its veracity and significance. We are fortunate to have online library resources and research data bases readily available to build deep / increased personal philatelic knowledge. Be determined this year to make the most of resources such as:

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

<https://bnaps.org/hhl/hhl-index.php>

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/postal-heritage-philately/Pages/postal-heritage-philately.aspx>

WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

This commemorative cover celebrates our 85th Anniversary. The club's first meeting was held at 782 Indian Road, Toronto, March 10th 1935. The cachet on the cover, by member Don Hedger, is a sketch from a photo of that location.

Over its 85 years, more than 1100 individuals have been WTSC members. WTSC is Charter Member #14 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and a founding member of the Greater Toronto and Area Philatelic Alliance. WTSC continues to thrive and is a leader in the Canadian philatelic community.

To further celebrate this 85th year. Each member will receive an 85th WTSC commemorative pin when we can again meet face to face after the 2020 Covid pandemic.



Designed by Don Hedger - Production completion - Garfield Porch

Other designs submitted



by - Don hedger



by - Ian Robertson



by - Don Hedger

Thank you to Patricia Blanchard for preparing the address labels and to all others who participated in this celebratory project. Your active participation and enthusiasm model the excellence evident in philately at WTSC.

Sid Mensinga - President WTSC

Fairfield Centre 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke ON

A recent most productive conversation with dealer John Beddows underscored the value of becoming better acquainted with and frequenting members of the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association (see <https://www.csdaonline.com/>). Take time in 2021 to check out their web sites, get on their mailing lists and build personal connections. Doing so will enhance your philatelic knowledge and joy when they help you build your collection / exhibit or locate that elusive philatelic item you have long searched for.

As leaders at WTSC, we look forward to your attendance and active participation at our January meetings. The first meeting of the New Year was a learning workshop on Tuesday, January 5, *Anything new to you that you wish to pursue*. A record twenty-one participants shared screens or sent images for the PowerPoint presentation. For details on February's learning workshop, *Pride and joy*, see page 5. A Zoom invite is emailed to all members a few days before each month's learning workshop. Guests are always welcome! Email me at sidmensinga@gmail.com for an invite.

On behalf of the board, I wish you a year of happiness and good health, an end to covid restrictions but most especially a year of maximum philatelic learning, pleasure and comradery.



Sid Mensinga

Quotes From a Covid World

"I'm Zoom called out. I really need a conversation, a long one, a short one, with somebody in person, even socially distanced." *Steve Simmons, torontosun.com, December 6, 2020.*

"Philatelic societies and clubs are holding virtual meetings. These meetings are not the same as getting together in person to talk, have a coffee, catch up with the news, but they have their advantages and thankfully they allow us to stay connected with each other and involved in our hobby." *Anon.*

Quote of the Month

With a new year arriving, this quote (see column to the right) from the American Philatelic Society reminds us that philately creates friendships and can

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promote good will and understanding between people.

"Philately is a universal hobby uniting people with similar interests. We love to collect, connect, & learn together." *APS Facebook post, November 3, 2020.*

Writing an Article for a Philatelic Publication – My New Year's Resolution to Members

In the December 2020 issue of the bulletin, members were asked to consider adding to their 2021 resolutions "writing for *The Canadian Philatelist*" or another philatelic publication. Interested parties were invited to contact the bulletin editor.

I heard from several members. Comments were similar and along the lines of: "I am a poor writer and always have been." "I have enough difficulty writing a page, trying to write an article is not worth the effort."

While teaching at the university in a professional faculty, I heard similar comments from students. Some enjoyed writing papers but many did not. We would tell them that writing a good paper is hard work for everyone, especially for the first few papers. It takes time. But it can be done and it does get easier, and it is worth the effort.

We would offer to assist students by helping them select a manageable topic and then reviewing and commenting on drafts. While obviously we couldn't write their paper or parts of it (doing so would be an academic offence for all involved), we could provide guidance on where a paper might need more work. It might not be ordered logically. The analysis might be ambiguous, confusing, or perhaps relevant discussion points have been missed. Perhaps the focus of the paper was becoming too broad and needed to be narrowed. And so on.

My resolution to members is this. If you wish to write an article for a philatelic journal, I am willing to work with you. I can't write the article for you – it's yours – but I can help you understand where it might need to be improved and why. Any advice I might give is just that – advice. You're always free to accept it or not.

If you decide to write, keep my resolution in mind.

Bob Timberg

Board of Directors

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RPSC Stamp Talks and Panels

On November 16, 2020 **The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada** announced on Facebook a series of virtual **stamp talks** for 2021. There will be one talk a month, each on the second Monday of the month and starting at **7 pm** Eastern. **Derwin Mak** will kick off the year on **Monday, January 11, 2021** with **The Batman First Day Ceremony at New York Comic Con**. To sign up for a registration email, contact stampstalks@capex22.org

The **RPSC** later announced a series of virtual **stamp panels**, one a month. The first panel will be on **Monday, January 18, 2021** at **7 pm** Eastern. The topic is **Stamp Collecting: Where do I get stamps, how do I store them and what tools and supplies do I need**. Club member **Ken Lemke** will act as moderator; **Stuart Keeley, Jerry Piotrowski** and **Bob Thorne** are the panelists. A registration email is available via the email address immediately above. The panels are being organized by club member Joe Trauzzi, a director of the Royal.

Free/For Sale/Wanted

WANTED – **Catholic Postage Stamps of the World** by **Charles J. Reilly**. The publication is dated 1938 and has since been reprinted. The reprints are available on Amazon. I am looking for the original. If anyone ever comes across a copy, please contact Bob at timberg@bell.net

As We Head Into Winter ...

"December's wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory..."

« Le souffle hivernal de décembre obscurcit déjà l'étang, givre la vitre, obscurcit la mémoire de l'été... »

John J. Geddes

January Discussion Group

On Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7 pm Ingo Nessel FRPSC of the Bramalea Stamp Club will present Canada's 1985-1989 50 Cent Parliament Booklets. This presentation proves that modern philately presents interesting research opportunities.

A Zoom invite will be sent several days before the meeting to all who have attended a prior discussion group. For all others, email Garfield at garfield.portch@gmail.com for the link. Guests are always most welcome.

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Collectors Offered Canada Post Pandemic 'Thanks Merci!' Stamps

Collectors seeking Canada Post's 2020 Personalized Postage pandemic stamps have been offered examples on eBay for bid prices starting at \$1.25 plus \$2 shipping for a single to — incredibly — up to two sets for almost \$1,000 at a fixed price.

Designed with an illustration by Andrew Lewis Design, of London, Ontario, the vertical "P" — 92¢ Permanent Postage — stamps feature a red, blue and white postal van rocketing into a cloud-covered blue sky, trailed by a rainbow-colored exhaust band, beneath a bilingual English and French inscription: "Thanks Merci!"



Booklet of 12 'Thanks Merci!' Personalized Postage stamps Canada Post gave to employees for a 2020 Christmas present.

The self-adhesive stamps were produced with die-cut perforations by Lowe-Martin in Ottawa. They were not available for sale at postal outlets.

Canada Post reportedly also used a more detailed version of the stamp design as a wrap-around on one of its delivery vans.

The Crown agency sent two booklet panes each containing twelve of the first-class letter rate stamps to all of its almost 68,000 employees. The total face value of each booklet is \$11.04. They were accompanied by a thank-you letter.

"Dear Colleague:

"Canada Post's iconic stamp program is known for celebrating incredible national achievements.

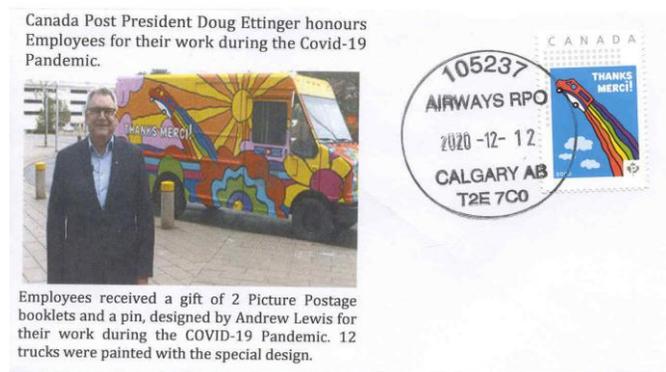
"When the global pandemic disrupted everyday life, we were there for our fellow Canadians. We put the safety of each other and our customers first. We provided an essential service and much-needed hope by doing what we do best.

"To recognize your efforts and the appreciation of Canadians, we asked a noted designer to develop this special stamp, for employees only.

"I hope it instills a sense of pride and serves as a reminder of what we can accomplish when we all pull together.

"With my sincere thanks, Doug Ettinger."

Ettinger is Chief Executive Officer and president of Canada Post.



'Thanks Merci!' Picture Postage gift stamp honouring efforts of postal employees during 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, on cover featuring photo of Canada Post President Doug Ettinger with postal van decorated with stamp symbol and sunburst.

A friendly postie in a village outlet I have visited regularly over several decades kindly gave me three of her stamps early in December, including two I asked her to attach to covers, postmark and mail to me.

It is quite likely many post office regulars who collect stamps received similar gifts, for which they were most grateful.

A recent check of eBay listings showed quite a range of prices for these stamps: Mint singles with opening bids from \$1.25 to \$9.19; a single with an unreadable portion of a large circle-date-stamp, for \$19.13; and booklets of 12 mint stamps with a range of bids up to \$32.

One lot containing a booklet plus an embossed pin with a reproduction of the stamp was sold for \$99. In other cases, two booklets with 24 stamps went for \$100, while another bidder was successful for just \$57.

Sellers with inflated visions of sugar-plum collectors willing to dive deep into their pockets offered packages containing two booklets plus pins at 'Buy-it-Now' prices that pranced over the rainbow for between \$399 and \$999. One lot, which included a rare facemask with a Canada Post logo, was available for a mere \$995.

Did any of the high-priced stocking-stuffers sell? Mmmm — not that I noted!

At least two unsold high-priced lots were relisted, but I didn't bother keeping track.

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It will be interesting to see whether these gifts-to-employees stamps will continue to be listed, and at what prices.

In one small post office, a boss told me an assistant was "hanging on" to her booklets, hoping to cash in before Christmas.

Down the road, a Canada Post employee stuck a gift stamp onto an envelope, intending to use it to pay a bill — until her supervisor provided a regular one, and peeled off the pandemic version to give to a collector friend. Since it would have rated as 'gum disturbed', he asked for it to be applied to a cover, then postmarked and mailed to his home.

Used examples, especially on covers will, undoubtedly, not be easy to find.

Finally, the Kelowna & District Stamp Club in British Columbia prepared covers with decorative cachets, then franked them with Canada Post's pandemic Personalized Postage stamp, one of several others prepared with 2020 pandemic themes, or a combination of stamps.

One such cover, bearing the postie's stamp plus one featuring a map of B.C. in red, with the slogan 'Be Kind - Be calm - Be safe', sold on eBay for \$20.50.



Limited edition Kelowna, B.C. cover with Canada Post 'Thanks Merci!' Picture Postage stamp for employees, plus Picture Postage 'Be Kind - Be calm - Be safe' B.C. stamp by Kelowna & District Stamp Club, sold on eBay for \$20.50



Ian Robertson

North Toronto Stamp Club

The **NTSC** has another great **Zoom presentation** scheduled for **Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7 pm**. Club president Les Selby will present **The Last Two German Zeppelins**. For an invite, please contact Klaus Hintz at NTSC.Membership@gmail.com.

A Second Zoom Day of Aerophilately

The **British North America Philatelic Society's Air Mail Study Group** (BNAPS AMSG) and the **Canadian Aerophilatelic Society** (CAS) have organized a **Second Zoom Day of Aerophilately** for **Sunday, February 7, 2021** from **11:30 am to 1:30 pm** Eastern, featuring:

Introductions and an optional show-and-tell on any item you have purchased recently, or wanted to.

A presentation by Denny May about his father "Wop" May, Commercial Airways Limited, and the first air mail flights to Aklavik in 1929. This will be similar to Denny's presentation in Winnipeg during ROYAL 2013 ROYALE, when it was great to hear about the early flights from somebody who knew the people involved, and has done extensive research on them.

An invitation to the meeting may be obtained from the editor at timberg@bell.net or from Chris Hargreaves at hargreavescp@sympatico.ca.

King George VI Study Group Zoom Meeting

The **King George VI Study Group** of the BNAPS is holding a **virtual meeting** on **Saturday, January 16, 2021** beginning at **2 pm** Eastern. Please contact club member Ken Lemke at kwlemke@sympatico.ca for an invitation to the meeting.

The meeting agenda includes presentations by **Peter McCarthy on WW II Motor Torpedo Boats**, and by West Toronto member **Simon Cloughton on Some Interesting 1940's Covers**.

February Learning Workshop

Our sixth **learning workshop** of the 2020-2021 season at **7 pm, Tuesday, February 2, 2021 via Zoom** is titled **Pride and Joy**.

With festivities wrapped up by then and winter's wonderland wafting over the world around us, members are invited to share some of the gems from their collections — recent or historic.

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Do you have a single stamp that you treasure for its looks, for its origins, for its postmark? Did it fill a space in your album and end eons of searching? Is there still a gap on a page, just waiting for an elusive finalist? Was it a lucky find, found by happens-chance? Was it a bargain based on your special knowledge and sharp eyes? Or was it worth the remortgaging of your house? Did it sit among a pile of similar stamps obtained long before you learned how to spot key varieties? Is it a legacy or gift from someone special?



What treasures lie within -- just waiting to ZOOM in on for our next Learning Workshop?

Perhaps you have a collection that fits some of the above topics. And, of course, all of the above could also refer to a cover or covers?



(Left) Is it safe to say at least one space was filled by a gem that took eons to find? (Right) Is there still a gap on an album page just waiting for an elusive final arrival?

There is no limit to the creativity involved in preparing to share and participate in another of our wonderful get-togethers.

The more, the merrier, as they say around this time of year.

I wish one and all a better New Year.

Ian Robertson

