



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

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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

Preparing for our February learning workshop – "Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict" – allowed me to further appreciate several WWII military covers in one of my accumulations.

Preparing to share does take time but provides considerable pleasure, enabling new learning and turning those accumulated covers into part of a larger collection.

Having a solid local history library, my books provided me with the needed background information. However, my philatelic library, still in the development stage, provided only a limited amount of understanding, underscoring the need to continue to invest in this section of my library.

Fortunately, I was able to sign out two terrific books from the Harry Sutherland Library at the Greene. What a great resource! (See also the article from our editor at page 3 which describes the assistance he received from the library when researching a question.)

Having resources readily available definitely enables the fun of new learning and an appreciation for the items in one's collections/ accumulations.

I am sure you would agree with Robin Harris, the new editor for *The Canadian Philatelist* who wrote: "the fun in stamp collecting is in the learning, whether that be by talking with other collectors or reading all kinds of philatelic literature."

As further detailed elsewhere in the newsletter, we have multiple opportunities to pursue our philatelic / stamp collecting interests this month.

A highlight will be our Annual Circuit Book Event on Tuesday, February 26. This event will be held in the library and the adjacent room. Please note there will be no auction that evening.

I look forward to your attendance and active participation at our February meetings, and throughout the rest of the philatelic season.

February Activities

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

Feb 5 ~ Learning Workshop (starts 7 – 7:15)
Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict

Feb 12 ~ Regular Meeting

Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

Feb 19 ~ Discussion Group (starts at 7)

Guest speaker **Bill Coates** will present on '**Dumpster Diving**'. He will use a box of unsorted material to lead a discussion on how to look through a 'box of junk' in search of that previously missed gem.

Feb 26 ~ Circuit Book Evening (starts at 7)

See immediately below.

Circuit Book Evening

The club will be hosting a circuit book night in the library from 7 – 9 pm. In addition to our own club books, we have invited the North Toronto, Peterborough and Guelph stamp clubs, and the Oxford Philatelic Society, to bring their circuit books. Members of GTAPA / GRVPA clubs are welcome to come. Plan to attend to look for items needed to fill holes in your collections.

Board of Directors

President: Sid Mensinga
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December Learning Workshop

John Robertson shows fellow West Toronto Stamp Club members Canadian slogan cancel covers with subjects based on first letters of the alphabet, except X and Z. (Photo courtesy Ian Robertson)



2019 Shows (GTA & Vicinity)

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **March 23 - 24**.

<http://stampandcoinshow.com/>

ORAPEX 2019, the 58th edition of the **Ottawa RA Centre Philatelic Exhibition (ORAPEX)**, will take place in **Ottawa** on **May 4 - 5**.

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

Royal *2019* Royale, the 91st annual convention and AGM of the RPSC, will take place in **Mississauga** on **June 21 - 23**.

<http://rpscroyal.com/>

The **PHSC Symposium 2019** will take place in **Hamilton** and vicinity on **July 18 - 21**.

<http://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Symposium/>

BNAPEX 2019, the 2019 convention, exhibition and bourse of the British North America Philatelic Society, will take place in **Ottawa** on **August 30 - September 1**.

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **September 7 - 8**.

CANPEX 2019 will take place in **London** on **October 19 - 20**.

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

The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's **Toronto Day of Aerophilately** will take place in **Toronto** at the Greene on **November 3**.

Philately in Asia

"Stamp collecting in Asia is flourishing. Stanley Gibbons of London estimates that two out of every three stamp collectors now reside in Asia. Mainland China is hot philatelic territory, but so are the countries scattered through Southeast Asia. Together with traditionally strong stamp collecting countries of Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, Asia is brimming with philatelic potential." (From the American Philatelic Society blog post "APS in Asia", December 19, 2018. <https://stamps.org/Blog/post/aps-in-asia>)

The Stamp Collector

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,
My life collection of rare postage stamps;
My room is cold and bare as you can see,
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
Yet more to me than balances in banks,
My albums three are worth a million francs.

I keep them in that box beside my bed,
For who would dream such treasures it could hold;
But every day I take them out and spread
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
I would defend them with my very life.

They are my very life, for every night
over my catalogues I pore and pore;
I recognize rare items with delight,
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;
And when some specimen of choice I buy,
In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;
To pay its price I starved myself a year;
And many a night my dinner I would lack,
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!
Hitler made war that day - I did not care,
So long as my collection he would spare.

Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.
To purchase it I had to sell my car.
Now in my pocket for some sous I grope
To pay my omnibus when home is far,
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermillion, eighteen forty-nine . . .
How painfully my heart began to pound!
(It's weak they say), I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,
I might discover a Mauritius blue,
poking among the stamp-bins of the quais;
Who knows! They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should spy,
I think - God help me! I should faint and die. . . .

Poor Monsieur Pns, he's cold and dead,
 One of those stamp-collecting cranks.
 His garret held no crust of bread,
 But albums worth a million francs.
 on them his income he would spend,
 By philatelic frenzy driven:
 What did it profit in the end. . .
 You can't take stamps to Heaven.

Robert W. Service (1874 – 1958). Most Canadians know him as 'the Bard of the Yukon'.

January Discussion Group

Guest speaker Rod Paige explains to club members his Gold Coast exhibit. (Photos courtesy Ian Robertson)

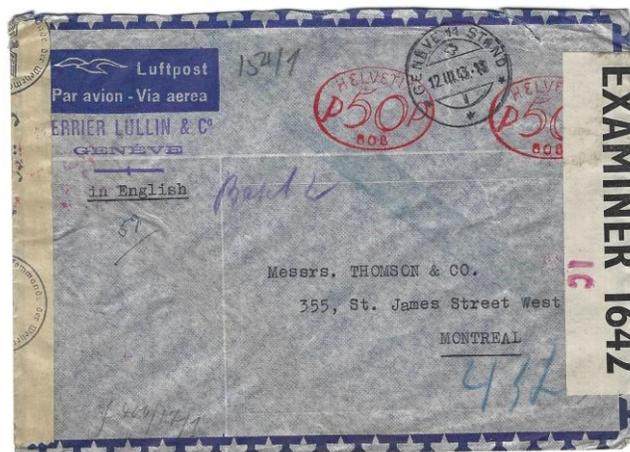


Question Answered

Have you ever looked at a cover and wondered about the route taken from mailing point to destination? I often do. One of my interests is civilian mail in times of armed conflict and particularly the routing of such mail.

Last summer I purchased a cover (see the column to the right) from Hugo Deshayé. It had been deposited in the mail in Geneva, destined to Montreal, in March 1943. At some point it had entered German-occupied territory and been examined by German censors. But

there was no indication of the route taken between Switzerland and Canada.



To help answer the question of the route taken, I checked with Chris Hargreaves of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society. He suggested I look at a book "The Postal History of World War II Mail Between Canada and Switzerland" by LaBlonde and Tyacke (2008, American Helvetia Philatelic Society, 250 pp), which was in the Harry Sutherland Library and which Kathy Hartley kindly loaned.

I found the answer to my question at page 144. The cover travelled on Swissair from Zurich to Stuttgart and possibly on to Berlin, where it was opened and examined and then put on a Lufthansa flight to Lisbon via Barcelona and Madrid. In Lisbon it was eventually put on a Pan American Airways flight that made its way to New York. Mail from Lisbon to New York typically took 27 – 47 days.

There is a moral to this story. Don't hesitate to reach out to others for assistance rather than going it alone. You may find that your question has already been answered, which leaves you free to move on to your next question. And if you're looking for a publication dealing with a Canadian issue, the Greene likely has it or knows where to find it.

Editor

If You Recycle, Stop

What do you do with your recent philatelic journals and magazines once you're finished with them? It is great if you keep them for future reference. But suppose you no longer need them. Do you toss them into the recycling bin? If you do, stop. Putting a recent philatelic magazine or any magazine for that matter, into recycling is a waste of a perfectly good magazine. Instead, give it to someone else at the club to read. Or do as I do. I leave them on public transit with the hope that someone will find them interesting.

Editor

Happy Birthday FDR

America's stamp collecting president was born on January 30, 1882 at Hyde Park, New York. For a brief bio of President Roosevelt, written from a philatelic perspective, see:

https://www.mysticstamp.com/info/this-day-in-history-january-30-1882-2/?utm_source=wysija&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=This+Day+in+History

March Learning Workshop

The title for our fourth learning workshop of the 2018-2019 season, on Tuesday, March 5, is "Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict (Part 2) - Preparation for CANPEX".

This get-together provides a follow-up opportunity for members considering contributing to a one-frame WTSC exhibit for the National Stamp Club Challenge at CANPEX 2019 to discuss topics, rules and preparation. A decision will be made in the future, but we need to involve at least eight participants.

The topic for CANPEX 2019 in London on October 19 - 20 is the proud military history of London and Southwestern Ontario. For more information, go online at: <http://www.canpex.ca/>

CANPEX, which stands for CANadian National Philatelic EXhibition, is one of a few national level exhibitions and stamp marketplaces held yearly. It is sanctioned by The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and is part of the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately".

The 2019 event will be hosted by the Middlesex Stamp Club and managed by volunteers from stamp clubs in Southern Ontario, plus related philatelic organizations and societies.

As mentioned before, militaria includes a wide range of Canadian stamp, postal history and postcard subjects, beginning with pre-1900 events, through the

First World War, the Second World War and post-war peacekeeping.

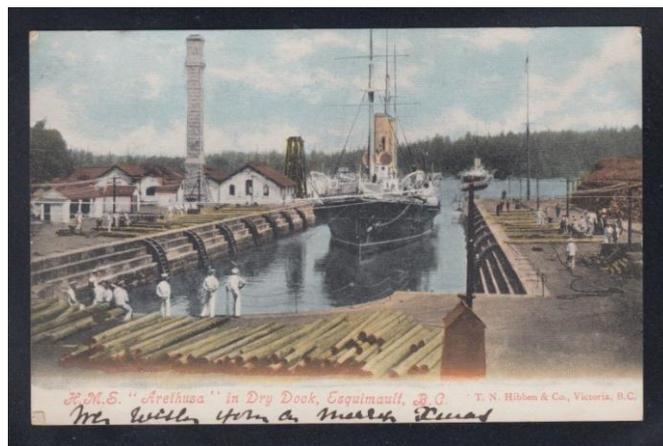
A few examples were included in the February newsletter. Further examples follow below.

So bring items to share at another fun and educational evening in the Fairfield Seniors Centre's library, 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke. We're always keen to have members share their knowledge.

Ian



'Le Camp Anglo-Canadien' - No. 2 military hospital camp, France, during First World War



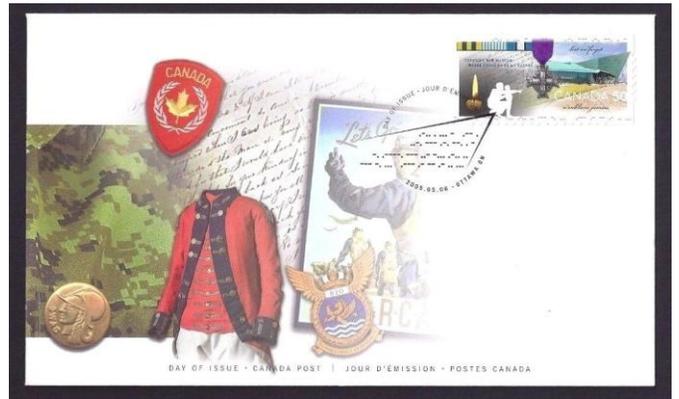
Unmailed picture postcard at Dry Dock, Esquimault, B.C., showing HMS Arethusa, a light British cruiser launched in 1913 and wrecked after naval mine explosion in 1916



1936 France commemoratives issued for unveiling of Vimy Ridge memorial to Canadian soldiers who captured the hill there from German soldiers during First World War



Undated mailed Second World War postcard of Royal Canadian Navy parade in Nova Scotia with birthday wish to a pal and stamp cancelled with unlettered obliterator - no postmark or date



50-cent commemorative showing new Canadian War Museum, with artifacts on 2005 Official First Day cover



2003 48-cent stamp commemorating Armistice that resulted in a cease-fire in the Korean War, in which Canadians served as part of United Nations forces



Prisoner of War letter sheet postmarked P.O.W. 20 - Gravenhurst, Ont. - on March 20, 1944, bearing both Canadian and German censors. Addressed to Aschaffenburg, Germany, and redirected

