



Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
Fairfield Seniors' Centre
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON
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Volume 84
Issue **431**

Mar 2018

B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

The dictionary defines two aspects of the word "appreciation": "a full understanding of" and "the recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone or something".

The corollary of both aspects of this definition definitely applies to stamp collecting and philately. Gaining a full understanding of and recognizing the good qualities of a stamp, cover or postal marking truly does enhance, bring joy and "appreciation" of the items we collect.

I am sure you would agree that the longer we pursue this hobby the more we come to realize that to truly appreciate what we collect we need to gain that full detailed understanding.

How might we do that?

- To correctly identify stamps, we need to study and know about the making of the stamps; the printing methods, dates and quantity of production, plate numbers and features, types and identification of paper used, colour terminology and identification, perforations, possible varieties, etc.
- We need to learn about the subject displayed. Who or what is being depicted and the cultural significance of that depiction or image.
- To understand its use and the possible rarity or scarcity, we need to learn and know about the postal rates and routes during a specific period. Being able to identify the myriad cancellations used and to know the postal regulations also provides increased clarity.
- Adding to the joy is to learn about the sender and addressee. Why was the item sent and under what circumstances?

To know the how, when, where and why of a philatelic item is so readily available today. Multiple web sites and data bases are just a click away. We have easy access to our personal libraries as well as access to the great resources at the Harry Sutherland Library at the Greene Foundation.

Enjoy and appreciate your collections this month as you continue to learn and grow in the hobby.

I look forward to your attendance and participation this coming month.

March Activities

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

Mar 6 ~ Learning Workshop (starts 7 – 7:15)
'Thrill of the Hunt'

Mar 13 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

Mar 20 ~ Discussion Group
Club member **Garfield Portch** will present **The Postal History of the Post Office in Toronto to 1901**. Garfield has been working on this project for some time now. His first presentation is to the club.

Mar 27 ~ Regular Meeting
Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

Discussion Group Schedule

April 17, May 15, June 19 ~ TBA

WTSC Board 2016-2018

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

Directors: Simon Claughton, Fred Colbourn, Art Leduc,
Jose Restrepo, Rob Taylor, Bob Timberg

Appointees: Garfield Portch (Auctions Chair and Discussion Group); Denzil Fernandes (Auctions); Rob Taylor (Webmaster); Bob Timberg (Bulletin Editor)

April Learning Workshop

"Trains, Planes and Automobiles" is the topic of our seventh Learning Workshop of the 2017-2018 season.

Or, as you've probably guessed by now, our monthly session will be all about topical stamps.

And what a topic or topics it can be!

The floor is open to hear about subjects dear to the hearts of members. And it's not limited, of course, to Trains, Planes and Automobiles.

Do you collect stamps featuring: Actors; Aircraft, as in 'Planes'; Artists; Art; Astrology; Authors; Benevolent Organizations; Birds; Cars, as in 'Automobiles'; Cartoons; Cats; Communications — Computers, Radio, Telephone, Television; Dogs; Education; Farm Critters; Fish; Flowers; Forests; Historic events; Historic figures; Race Horses; Medical themes; Military themes; Minerals; Movies; Music; Printing — a pressing topic if there ever was one!; Railroad themes, like the aforementioned Trains; Religious subjects; Royalty; Scientific Discoveries; Ships; Singers; Space the Final Frontier; Sports; Stamps-on-Stamps; Strange and Hauntingly Unusual — That's the spirit!; Wild Animals.

Having whizzed through a whole list of topics, let's hear about why you picked your subject, or subjects.

Do you hunt for treasures in the club circuit books, or stockbooks and boxes of stamps and covers offered by other members?

Do you subscribe to any newsletters related to your favorite theme?

By the way, there are philatelic organizations dedicated to topical collecting.

The biggest is the American Topical Association. Founded in 1949, it has more than 3,000 members worldwide and offers a wide variety of topics in its bi-monthly 92-page journal, Topical Time.

If interested, write: American Topical Association, P.O. Box 8, Carterville, IL, U.S.A. 62918-0008; or email: americantopical@msn.com

In addition, various publishing houses have produced books on many themes found on stamps.

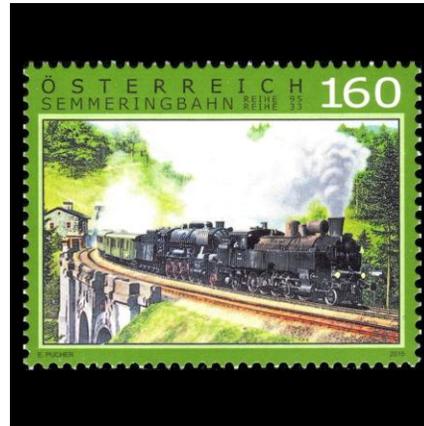
Remember, the Learning Workshop starts at 7 p.m., or thereabouts and goes on until whenever.

Come early on April 3, select a good seat and prepare to share — all for good fun, naturally.

Ian

Illustrations – see column to the right.

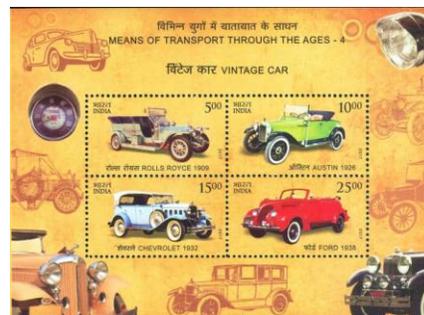
TRAINS - Austria 2015 commemorative for the 160th Anniversary of the Semmering Railway Trains



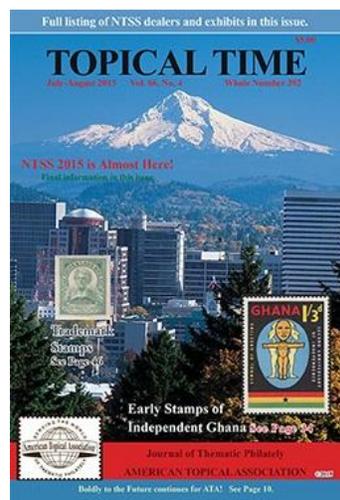
PLANES - 1982 Canadian bushplane commemoratives



AUTOMOBILES - 2017 India 'Means of Transport Through the Ages' souvenir sheet featuring 1926 Austin, 1938 Ford, 1932 Chevrolet and 1909 Rolls Royce cars



Topical Time, 92-page bi-monthly journal of the ATA



Harry Sutherland Library

The Harry Sutherland Library at the Greene Foundation, which is open Monday to Thursday from 10 to 4, will again have extended hours in March. The library will open Saturday, March 17, from 10 to 6, and Wednesday, March 28, from 10 to 7.

Saturday, March 17, is also the date of North Toronto Stamp Club's spring bourse which is taking place up the street from the Greene at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street. If you're planning to take in the bourse, consider also stopping in at the library, and vice versa.

Royal 2018 Royale

Be sure to circle June 22-24 on your calendars. The 90th annual convention and AGM of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, hosted by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, will be held in St. Catharines. For details, see:

<https://www.rpsc.org/royal2018/>

PHSC Symposium 2018

Also be sure to circle July 19-22 on your calendars. The PHSC Symposium is back for its second year. For details, see:

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

GHRG (BNAPS)

The Golden Horseshoe Regional Group of BNAPS will meet in Ancaster on Saturday, March 31, the day before Easter. Guest speaker Larry Cherns will talk about "Mail correspondence to and from Dunnville, Ontario". For details on time and location, check:

<http://www.bnaps.org/regional.php>

National Postage Stamp and Coin Show in Mississauga

Reminder - James Barron, the author of *The One-Cent Magenta: Inside the Quest to Own the Most Valuable Stamp in the World*, will be speaking at the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show in Mississauga on Saturday, April 7.

For details, see:

<https://canadianstampnews.com/new-york-reporter-will-show-dish-quest-one-cent-magenta/>

APS Stamp Madness

The American Philatelic Society is planning a stamp madness contest in March, modelled on college basketball's March madness competition. Details on stamp madness are expected to be posted shortly on APS's Facebook page.

RPSC Facebook Page

Last fall the RPSC introduced its Facebook page. To date the page has received 96 likes; however only a couple are from club members. I would appreciate it if you would look at the page and, if you have any thoughts or comments about it, please don't hesitate to send them to me at timberg@bell.net. The page is still a work in progress.

You can find the page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Royal.Philatelic.Society.Canada/?ref=bookmarks>

KG VI Collectors Society

For those who collect, or are interested in learning more about, British and British Empire and Commonwealth stamps of the George VI era, you may wish to consider joining the King George VI Collectors Society. The group has about 400 members living in over two dozen countries. They publish a quarterly journal, GEOSIX. Membership is very reasonable - £12.70 if you receive the journal electronically. For further information, visit the society's web site at:

<http://www.kg6.info/>

Sidney Soanes

Long time club member (50 years plus) Sidney V. Soanes, Ph.D. passed away on February 21, 2018 in his 97th year. We extend our sincere sympathies to his family. Sidney was also a 50 year plus member of the RPSC.

Membership

As of late February, our club had 86 paid-up members.

Thank You

I (your editor) had a serious fall on ice earlier in February. Several people kindly came together to assist in getting this newsletter out. My thanks to one and all. I should be fine for the April issue, knock on wood.

