



Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
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416-394-8687

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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

First of all, congratulations to all who participated in our most successful, and first, Virtual Club Exhibition. Thank you to Don for his leadership and to Garfield who provided the tech support. The **winner** of the Single Page **Frank Alusio Award** was **Don Hedger** with his exhibit **Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage July 1936 ~ A Soldiers Dedication & Unveiling of Monument**. A special **thank you** to **Sam Chiu**, this year's **judge**. His comments were encouraging and provided us with significant insight into how best to exhibit.

Researching and at times struggling to write up my single page submission for this year's exhibition, helped to shape my message this month. Yes, writing that story, putting thoughts into words, trying to clearly articulate what I think I know is revealing and most often brings about the need for new learning.

Thoroughly studying a philatelic item as we prepare to write up a page for our collections, or to write up a cover to share with philatelic friends or to prepare a page to exhibit, are experiences we all share and wish to do well. When in this process, I at times ask myself, why not just leave the item, nicely in order, in my black pages/stock books? I have already enjoyed the thrill of the hunt. I think I have a good understanding of what it is. Why take it any further? Why write it up?

The answer appears simple yet is complex. Writing requires fully understanding an item to correctly place it into a certain context. To do so, questions come to mind that require answers. Answers that will inform the decision, if and how this stamp/cover might be added to the collection or fit into a specific philatelic story.

Questions such as: Who designed, engraved and printed the stamp? What paper, printing, colour, shades, perforation types exist? Are there varieties? Where might they be listed? Are there variations in the gum and printing methods? Condition? Is the postmark/cancellation significant? What was its period of use? What rate did it pay?

All covers are unique so different questions come to mind. How will or might this cover add to the story or my collection of similar themed covers? What is the destination, route and rate? How long was this rate valid? Are the stamps used in period? By what means did this cover travel, who held the contract? What do

transit, receiving and other postal markings indicate? Who were the sender and receiver? Is there a social story to be gleaned?

I may well have omitted the critical question you need to ask and answer as you consider what features are relevant to note. Knowing what questions to ask and answering them helps each of us focus and write up our collections/exhibits, and helps us to decide what is surplus and what to hunt for. Acquiring knowledge and integrating that with existing knowledge by putting it in writing adds depth and accuracy to a collection or story. As well the process is satisfying and keeps us fully engaged and mentally active.

November continues to be a time of multiple philatelic opportunities for WTSC members.

1. Learning Workshop, Tuesday, November 3, 7 pm, via Zoom – Look What I Discovered and Recently Learned. A Zoom invite from me with the needed link has been sent to all members. If you have trouble connecting or cannot locate the link, email me at sidmensinga@gmail.com Guests are welcome!

2. Discussion Group, Tuesday, November 17, 7 pm, via Zoom. Guest speaker Ken Pugh will present on **A Stamp Valid for One Day – 1892 Columbus Issue of Argentina**. A Zoom invite will be sent to all members prior to the date. Guests are welcome and can obtain the Zoom invite from me at sidmensinga@gmail.com.

3. Circuit Book opportunities continue to be available. To make the needed arrangements to view our circuit books or to submit new pages, contact Simon at [simon \(at\) berlet \(dot\) com](mailto:simon(at)berlet(dot)com).

4. Place an Ad in the FREE/FOR SALE/WANTED COLUMN - instead of our twice monthly in-person auctions, a great way to focus your collections. Get rid of items you do not need and hunt to fill those gaps. For details see last month's bulletin. Ads must be submitted to Bob Timberg timberg@bell.net no later than the third Monday of the preceding month. (For inclusion in the December WTSC Bulletin, the ads must be submitted by Monday, November 16.)

5. Learning Workshop, Tuesday, December 3, 7 pm, via Zoom - D – First Letter in December. See page 3 for details.

Good to see some new faces joining our Zoom meetings this past month. Consider using Zoom this coming month to join your WTSC colleagues online. If you want help or have questions, contact me at

sidmensinga@gmail.com



Sid Mensinga

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Correction

A number of copies of the October Bulletin contained an error. In the introduction to Andrew Cunningham's article on Neutral Moresnet, the Toronto Postcard Club was inadvertently referred to as the largest postcard club in Toronto. With over 250 members, TPC is in fact the largest postcard club in Canada. As soon as the error was spotted, it was corrected; however some copies of the newsletter had already gone out.

Quote of the Month

"At Orapex [2019], I can recall (mostly because it's in my notes) one of the exhibit judges likening exhibitors to artists. 'We start with blank pieces of paper, and we end up with works of art,' said long-time collector, exhibitor and judge Bill Schultz, of West Chester, Pa. 'Every exhibit out there is a work of art.'" *The 'art' of exhibiting, Jesse Robitaille from Canadian Stamp News, in Philatelic Commentary, CSN, Vol. 45, No. 9, August 18-31, 2020, p. 4.*

WTSC Single-Page Exhibition

The club's virtual one-page exhibition was a great success. We had twenty-two on the Zoom call and eleven exhibits from five members which was quite encouraging as some were exhibiting for the very first time.

Usually in a virtual exhibition, an exhibitor sends scans and never gets to interface with the judge. Our exhibition was different. Exhibitors listened to the

judge's comments and were able to discuss their exhibit with the judge. Everyone on the call was able to listen and ask their own questions. All of us took away tips on how to improve an exhibit.

I would like to thank Sam Chiu for acting as our judge. It was great having someone who has judged nationally and internationally to review and comment on our exhibits. This was Sam's first time judging virtually.

As well as being a philatelic judge, Sam is a prolific exhibitor with more than 75 Gold and Large Gold awards. He also has had a Grand Award for a postcard exhibit. Sam, many thanks again. Your assistance and advice was much appreciated by everyone.

Don Hedger

FRANK ALUSIO TROPHY

The **Frank Alusio Trophy** is awarded to the **best one-page exhibit** in the annual club exhibition. This year's winner was **Don Hedger** for his exhibit **Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage July 1936 ~ A Soldiers Dedication & Unveiling of Monument**.



In July 1936 over 6000 Canadian WW I soldiers travelled to France to tour battlefields in France and Belgium and to attend the unveiling on July 26 of the Vimy Monument at Vimy Ridge.

There are three major elements to the exhibit: the first day cover with French concessionary rate to

Canada; a MNH stamp; and pre production, engraver-signed artwork for the stamp. The photo of the Monument (shown on the cover) is of a maquette, a scale model of the Monument. The card Canada's National War Memorial was enclosed in all covers mailed during the trip, which was via ship to France/Belgium/England and back.

KGVI Study Group (BNAPS)

The inaugural Zoom meeting of the **King George VI Study Group** will be on **Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 2 pm EST**. The presentation will be **WW II Patriotic Covers and Slogans** by **Eldon Godfrey**. If you are interested in attending, please email Ken Lemke at kwlemke@sympatico.ca for the meeting ID and password. Everyone is welcome.

CAS / Air Mail Study Group

Earlier in October, club members were advised by email that the **Canadian Aerophilatelic Society (CAS) and the Air Mail Study Group of BNAPS** will hold a meeting on **Sunday, November 1 from 11:30 am – 1 pm EST, the Zoom Day of Aerophilately**. The meeting is open to everyone. If you wish to attend and have misplaced the details, contact the editor Bob Timberg at timberg@bell.net. Depending on the number of attendees, the meeting may extend past 1 pm. There will be several presentations, one by club member **Simon Claughton** who will present **A Collection of November Air Covers**.

NTSC

"In February 2020, NTSC Executive member **John Sharp** and his wife took a cruise to **Antarctica**. During the trip they visited some of the world's southernmost post offices, and observed the region's many icebergs, penguins, seals and humpback whales." [From NTSC website.] **John will share his impressions of this unique region on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 7 pm**. To receive an invite, email Klaus Hintz at NTSC.Membership@gmail.com

December Learning Workshop

Our fourth **learning workshop** of the season, **via Zoom**, will be on **Tuesday, December 1 at 7 pm**. It is titled **D – First Letter in December**.

As the calendar advances towards December, the chill of winter and snow-covered sidewalks come to mind – unless that has already happened in your neighborhood.

No worries. In the warmth of our homes, the month in which many people celebrate Christmas provides an

opportunity for collectors to consider related themes.

With myriad stamps featuring Yuletide, some with religious themes, others with generic subjects, there are plenty available to deck the pages of your albums.

But wait, there's more.

Since this month begins with 'D', it is time for our fourth learning workshop based on a letter of the alphabet. There is, assuredly, a plethora of Delightful terms for consideration and Discussion. Some are well-known, while others are like a Christmas present; unknown until unwrapped.

Like the age-old tradition of gift-giving and receiving, I invite members one and all to share some of their favorite "D" subjects during our allotted time, starting at 7 pm on December 1.

In case you're stuck for an idea, send me an email and I'll be glad to offer up some pre-meeting suggestions, including one I'm including here with an associated illustration.

And, if you've got a large enough Christmas bag, I'll be happy to send you a long list to consider. I recently finished checking it. Twice. Or was it three times? Four?



DEATH MASK. 1904 Serbia stamp with portraits of Karageorge (1752-1817), founder of modern Serbia, and King Peter I, but became popular as apparent death mask of assassinated King Alexander (1876-1903) when turned upside down. (Stamp shown upside down.)

Remember, when you participate and share, you learn as you prepare to share. Since our chimneys are closed to visitors this year, we'll see you at ZOOM time!



Ian Robertson

Free/For Sale/Wanted

FREE - LARGE SHOE BOX OF USED WORLD, thousands, common material but many with interesting cancellations. Be the first to contact Sid by email at sidmensinga@gmail.com

FREE - BRITISH COLLECTION, catalogue over \$40. Contact Lawrence at lawpin@rogers.com

FREE - NEWFOUNDLAND COLLECTION, catalogue over \$15. Contact Lawrence at email above.

FREE - BACK OF THE BOOK CANADIAN COLLECTION, catalogue over \$20. Contact Lawrence at email above.

FREE - WORLDWIDE COLLECTION, catalogue over \$40. Contact Lawrence at email above.

FREE - USA COLLECTION, catalogue over \$35. Contact Lawrence at email above.

FREE - BOXES AND (mostly junior) ALBUMS of hundreds of WORLDWIDE STAMPS, not catalogued. Contact Lawrence at email above.

FREE - Various sizes of STAMP MOUNTS and HINGES, large cost value. Contact Lawrence at email above.

WANTED - CANADIAN CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE COVERS to African, Caribbean and Central & South American destinations. Looking for covers postmarked prior to July 1, 1967. Contact Sid by email at sidmensinga@gmail.com

WANTED - STOCK BOOKS WITH BLACK PAGES. Size does not matter - they can be 8.5x11 or 6x9 - but they must be black with glassine tissue interleaves since I put perfins into the books and the perfs become easier to discern. Contact Peter by email at pasenoj@gmail.com

