



Bulletin

Since 1935

The Newsletter of the West Toronto Stamp Club

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Fairfield Centre
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Rob Timberg, Editor

President's Message

Our philatelic activities for the 2012-13 season will come to a close over the next two months, with a bang.

First, our **annual stamp exhibition** will take place on Tuesday, May 14. The exhibition pre-empted that day's regular meeting and auctions. Preparation for the event is well underway. See below for more details.

Second, on Tuesday, June 11 at the evening's auctions we will run a full trial of a **new auction process**. If successful, the new process will be introduced in September. Details on the proposed process can be found below.

For those members who were unable to attend our April 23 meeting, I am delighted to report that fellow member Joshua Hodgson was honoured for his 50 years of membership in the Club. Details can be found below as well as congratulations to members Peter Butler and Rob Timberg.

Finally but not least, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Peter Jones to the Club. Enjoy!

As always, if you have questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to speak to me or any other member of your Board of Directors. We are here to serve you.

I am most grateful to those members who have approached me to talk about the Club and ways to improve our programming. Your comments on our efforts to keep our Club vibrant by providing various activities and keeping the membership in sync are very much appreciated.

Happy Collecting!

From the Editor

For history buffs, one of the joys of our hobby is that you can pick almost any day of the year and find something interesting in philately or postal history that occurred on that day.

If we pick May 6 for instance, we find that 76 years ago, in 1937, the great Hindenburg was destroyed by fire coming in to land in New Jersey.

The connection to our hobby? Hindenburg was the largest airborne post office ever built.

If anyone has a favourite date, let me know and I'll delve into what happened on it in philatelic/postal history, and I'll publish the findings in an issue of the Bulletin.

Fyi, the Smithsonian Postal Museum has an on-line exhibit, Fire and Ice, on the Hindenburg and also the Titanic which is well worth visiting. <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/fireandice/index.html>



Annual Stamp Exhibition

Our 60th Annual Stamp Exhibition will take place on May 14 in the Auditorium of the Fairfield Centre.

At least 6 standard frames containing 96 pages on various subjects in the Single-page, Multi-page and One-frame categories will be on display. The winner of each category will receive a philatelic prize.

This year's show will include entries from Machin Study Group members. In addition, there will be a demonstration on why, what and how to exhibit.

Members put a tremendous amount of effort into preparing their exhibits, and are justifiably proud of their philatelic materials. Please make every effort to attend and "cheer" them on.

Collecting vs. Accumulating

Fellow member David Gooderham, also a member of the Machin Study Group, has prepared a PowerPoint slide show, "Collecting Machins: Is yours a collection ..., or simply an accumulation?" Although written with Machins in mind, David's presentation offers tips on how to move from being an accumulator of stamps to a collector, and is well worth reading. If you're interested in seeing it, please contact David at dgooderham@cogeco.ca

Auctions – A Proposal for Change



In keeping with changing times and to make use of technology, we are planning to streamline our auction process.

The proposed process will allow members to walk-in their prepared lots early in the evening on auction day, and receive payment that same evening at the end of the auction.

Background

On Sunday, April 7, 2013, Reay Cairns (Auction Chair), Frank Alusio and Don Hedger visited the Oshawa/Whitby/Brooklin stamp groups to observe their auction in action. Afterwards, they developed a process (outlined below) using Microsoft Excel they felt would work at our Club.

Reay successfully tested the Microsoft Excel program by inputting a mock-up auction and then successfully tested it again at the April 23 Invitational Auction.

A full trial of the new process will be conducted at our Club auction on June 11.

The Changes

1. The current silent and vocal auctions will be combined into one vocal auction.
2. The minimum catalogue value of each lot submitted must be \$5 (a rise from \$3 currently).
3. There will be no change in the format and use of the current lot description tags.

The Process

1. A seller will walk-in a reasonable number of prepared lots on the evening of the auction.
2. Lots will be accepted and recorded in the computer.
3. Each lot will be displayed on tables for viewing and accepting bids.
4. The auctioneer will hammer the lots.
5. At the conclusion of the auction, buyers will claim their lots and pay the cashier.
6. The seller will receive payment (sale price less 10% commission).

Assistance Needed

We require a volunteer and a back-up who are able to work with Microsoft Excel to record lots, input data, and sort by buyer and seller. If interested, please see Reay, Frank or Don. This is an opportunity to help your Club. Don't be shy.

GTAPA Call for Authors

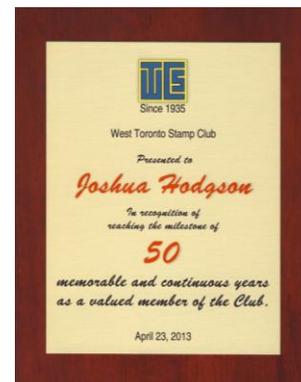
If you've always wanted to write an article, now is your chance. PhilaJournal, the quarterly journal of the GTAPA, is seeking new authors.

Articles need not be long; 800 words (2 PhilaJournal pages) work best. Subjects need not be overly technical; a topic having a philatelic point of interest to GTAPA members will suffice.

For more information, contact Editor Susan Butler at sbutler@ilap.com

Congratulations

On April 23 President Frank Alusio presented fellow member Joshua Hodgson with a special plaque.



Josh, an avid collector of Poland, Danzig, Estonia, Canada, World Airmail Etiquettes and Cinderellas, joined our Club in 1963. At the time the Club operated out of the ANAVIC Hall on Dufferin Street south of Eglinton Avenue West.

Club members acknowledged Josh's 50 years of memorable and continuous membership with a standing ovation.

Congratulations, Josh! Thank you for sharing your philatelic knowledge with us and for being a great friend.

Congratulations are also due to fellow members Peter Butler and Rob Timberg. Earlier this year Peter was honoured by the American Philatelic Society as one of the 2012 recipients of their Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award for National Promotion/Service.

Recently Rob Timberg, who is also Editor of our newsletter and a member of our Board of Directors, agreed to volunteer with the RPSC and became Executive Manager of the National Office and Acting Secretary of RPSC's Board of Directors. He replaced Peter Butler, who retired.

Spring 2013 Invitational Auction

On April 23 the Club held its semi-annual Invitational auction.

Comparative Table		
	Apr 2013	Dec 2012
Attendance	38	39
Vendors	12	13
Lots	61	64
Catalogue value	\$4,988	\$5,380
Lots sold	50	52
Total price realized	\$707.00	\$664
Avg selling price	\$14	\$13
Commission	\$70.70	\$66.40
Buyers	20	19
Avg buyer spend	\$35	\$35

Thirty-eight members attended the auction (49% of the membership), and 20 were buyers (52% of attendees). Each buyer spent on average \$35. Out of 61 lots, 50 were sold (82%). Based on a catalogue value of \$4988, the net realization was \$707 or 14%.

As mentioned above, the new Microsoft Excel computer program was tested and performed well.

Thanks to all who participated, and a special thanks to Denzil Fernandes for all his assistance.

Miscellany

"It is said that as many days as there are in the whole journey, so many are the men and horses that stand along the road, each horse and man at the interval of a day's journey; and these are stayed neither by snow nor rain nor darkness from accomplishing their appointed course with all speed."

Herodotus, Greek historian, writing in his History of the Persian Wars about the mounted postal courier service in the ancient Persian Empire.

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Inscription on James Farley Post Office at 421 8th Avenue, NYC. James Farley, the main post office in Manhattan, has ZIP code 10001. The

inscription, 280 feet long, is on its front facade. The U.S. Postal Service has no official motto; the James Farley inscription is sometimes said to be its unofficial motto.

Membership

As of April 30:

Summary		
Begin 2012-13		84
Renewed	70	
Reinstated	1	
New members	6	
Not renewed	11	
Deceased	1	
Moved	2	
April 30, 2013		77

We extend a warm welcome to new member Peter Jones (1045).

May – Jun 2013 Calendar

All activities are on Tuesday (doors open 6:30 pm)

May 07	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
May 14	7:00 pm	Annual stamp exhibition
May 21	7:00 pm	Discussion Group (Garfield Portch): "RPSC Circuit Books: Opportunity to buy stamps from many countries from the RPSC circuit books"
May 28	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, show and tell, and auctions
Jun 04	7:00 pm	Machin Study Group
Jun 11	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, awards presentation, and auctions (new auction process will be trialed)
Jun 18	7:00 pm	Discussion Group (Group): "Roundtable Discussion: General discussion on the hobby and activities, including suggestions for our 2013-14 program"
Jun 25	7:00 pm	Regular meeting, short information session, and auctions

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

Harry S. Truman, 33rd U.S. President