

# The Canadian Philatelist

## Le Philatéliste canadien



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Journal of The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA  
Revue de La SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

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## THE COVER / PAGE COUVERTURE:

**There still exists a great deal of postal history, preserved on covers and correspondence hidden away in attics and dealer boxes, that remains enigmatic and needs to be unravelled. One such small cache of covers and letters originating in the high Andes of Colombia provided the inspiration for the story in this issue by Raymond W. Ireson entitled "In Search of El Dorado", beginning on page 221.**

**Une énigme doit être résolue: celle de tranches complètes de l'histoire postale préservée sous forme d'enveloppes et de correspondance cachées dans des greniers et dans les cartons des marchands. C'est d'une telle cachette, abritant des plis et des lettres en provenance des hautes Andes de Colombie, que Raymond Ireson a puisé l'inspiration pour son récit intitulé « In Search of Eldorado » (À la recherche de l'Eldorado) que nous pourrions lire à partir de la page 221.**

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Publication Assistance Program (PAP) toward our mailing costs.

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Le prix de l'abonnement est de 25 \$ par an pour les membres de La Société royale de philatélie du Canada. Ce montant est inclus dans la cotisation et les membres reçoivent automatiquement le magazine. L'abonnement pour les non-membres est de 30 \$ par an. Les changements d'adresse, les exemplaires non-livrés et les demandes d'abonnement doivent être envoyés à : C.P. 929, Succursale Q, Toronto, Ont., M4T 2P1. Le port de retour est garanti. Le numéro d'enregistrement des éditions est : 09828.

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soderer@ns.sympatico.ca  
Ann Triggler, Clarence, NY (USA) atriggler@buffalo.edu

#### Editor – Éditeur

Tony Shaman, FRPSC  
P.O. Box 43103, Eastwood Square, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9  
shaman@smokesignal.net

#### Associate Editor – Éditeur Associé

Grégoire Teyssier, Trois Rivières Ouest, QC,  
gteyssier@hotmail.com

#### National Office – Bureau National

Andrew D. Parr, Executive Director / Directeur exécutif  
P.O. Box / C.P. 929, Station, Succ Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1  
Tel/Tél: (416) 979-8874  
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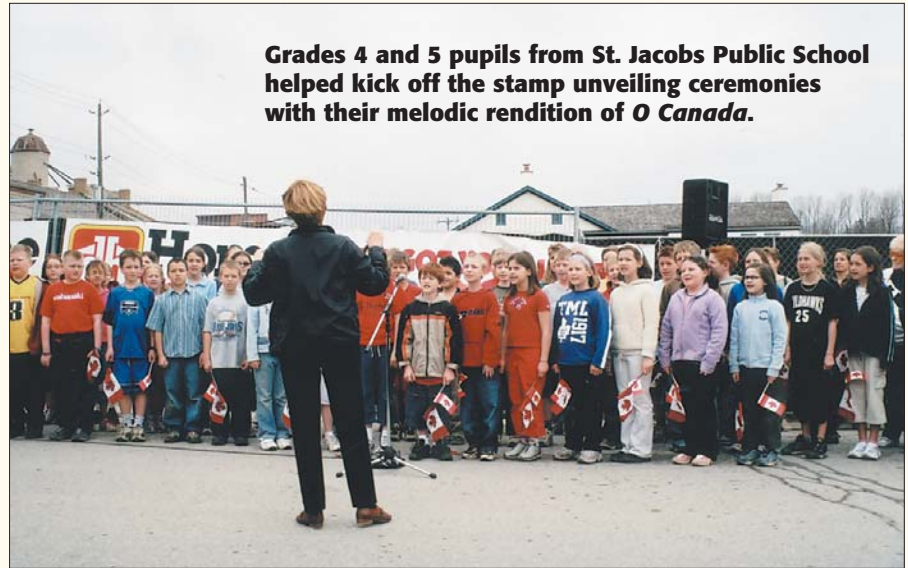
# St. Jacobs Hosts Stamp Launch

By Tony Shaman

The heavy downpour shortly before the scheduled unveiling of the Home Hardware 40th-anniversary stamp and the still-threatening clouds hanging over St. Jacobs did not dampen the party atmosphere. Only the odd umbrella was in evidence as the crowd, estimated at about 700 including a number of Home Hardware dealers in town for their semi-annual Market, assembled for the festivities.

Albert Street, several doors down from the downtown post office, was cordoned off for the April 19, 2004 official ceremony. Across the street, the caterer was already busy firing up his grills to barbeque several hundred hamburgers and hot dogs. A pair of six-foot, end-to-end tables was needed to hold the two birthday cakes each shaped and decorated to resemble a stamped, addressed envelope.

Kicking off the unveiling ceremony were the melodic

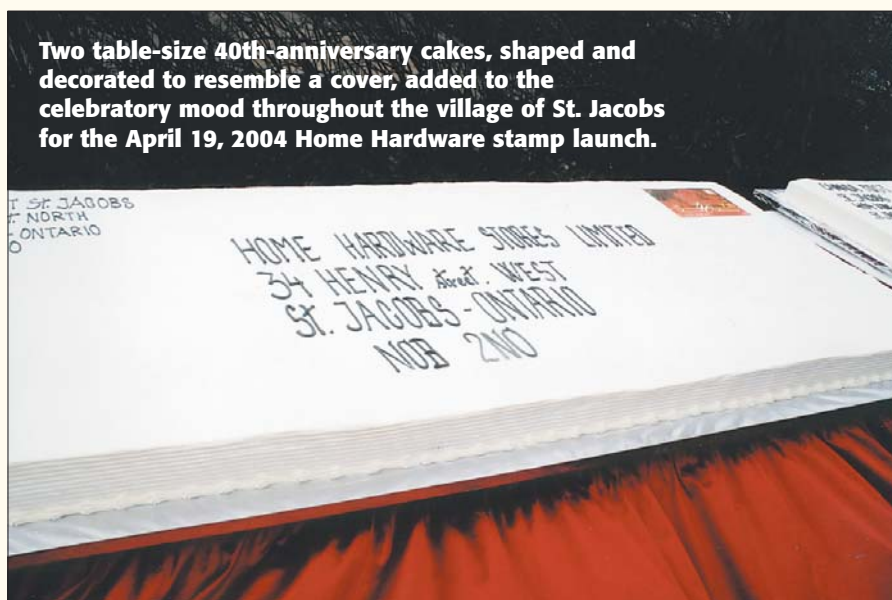


**Grades 4 and 5 pupils from St. Jacobs Public School helped kick off the stamp unveiling ceremonies with their melodic rendition of *O Canada*.**

voices of St. Jacobs Public School Grades 4 and 5 students with their rendition of *O Canada*. Local dignitaries, company officials, politicians, and area residents also participated in the ceremony. To add a local touch of the village's unique appeal, organizers arranged for a horse-drawn buggy to provide a visual backdrop to the proceedings.

National companies have the resources to do things in grand style and Home Hardware organizers left no stone unturned for their stamp launch bash. To show its support for the event, the board of directors of the giant hardware chain showed up in their signature red blazers. While the village may not have been the "sea of red" that stamp designer Ron Mugford alluded to in his address to the assembled gathering, the red shirts and jackets worn by Home Hardware dealers, company officials, staff, and employees did outnumber the non-red apparel seen around town.

Company President Walter Hachborn personally signed 5,000 first-day covers for presentation to visitors attending the unveiling. Also available to autograph covers was Home Hardware's Creative Director Ron Mugford, who designed the stamp.



**Two table-size 40th-anniversary cakes, shaped and decorated to resemble a cover, added to the celebratory mood throughout the village of St. Jacobs for the April 19, 2004 Home Hardware stamp launch.**



**Pictured on the Home Hardware First-Day-of-Issue cover are depictions of company co-founders Walter Hachborn (right) and Henry Sittler. Hachborn personally autographed 5,000 covers for presentation to guests attending the stamp unveiling.**

Collectors availed themselves of the special hammers at the nearby post office to cancel their first-day covers.

The village's pictorial canceller depicts a typical Home Hardware 18-wheel tractor-trailer used by the company to keep its more-than 1,000 coast-to-coast stores supplied. A second hammer, featuring a large numeral 40 in bold print along with the company logo, was especially designed for the stamp launch. Post office staff were kept busy from early morning and throughout most of the day serving customers eager to purchase the 10-stamp panel prestige pack, first-day covers, and sample strikes of the two special cancellers.

By the time that the official ceremonies were over and the

crowd began to line up for hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, and scrumptious birthday cake, the clouds had

all but dissipated and made way for a perfect ending to a stamp launch that will long be remembered in St. Jacobs. 🍁



**Assisting at the stamp unveiling are left to right: Home Hardware President Walter Hachborn, MP for Waterloo-Wellington Lynn Myers, Canada Post Vice-President of Business Transformation and Sourcing Management Louis O'Brien, and stamp designer Ron Mugford.**

# the lighter side of Philatelic Writing

By Steve Thompson

## New Way of Preventing Forgeries

Stamp forgeries should be a thing of the past thanks to noted German stamp collector Elsa Schlitztorf. Next year will see the first stamps ever issued with a perfumed scent. "I got the idea because I was constantly being sent perfumed paper. One day I thought, 'Why not on stamps too?' So I wrote the German post office about my idea and they accepted it. It will be a great way to stop forgeries. Someone is bound to be caught if they issue a fake stamp with an Eau d'Heaven scent when it should have been Chanel Number 5."

Schlitztorf has other motives with her revolutionary idea. "There are too few women collecting stamps. They need something more than a piece of paper to attract them to our hobby. I am confident that this idea will prove a breakthrough in increasing female membership, especially among young girls."

One can hardly wait for the heavenly scents emitting from the stamp albums of the future.

# Quick Licks

## C.R. MCGUIRE WINS PRATT AWARD

The Collectors Club of Chicago is pleased to announce that this year's winner is C.R. McGuire of Ottawa, Canada. Mr. McGuire won for his series on the Newfoundland Ferry SS *Caribou*, the stamps depicting the steamship and their postal history published in the *Postal History Society of Canada Journal*.

## SAVE MOZART!

On April 1, 2004, a pictorial postmark debuted at the Canadian hamlet of Mozart, Saskatchewan. Postmaster Jean Halldorson chose the date to coincide with the 95th anniversary of the settlement's founding on April 1, 1909.

The tiny post office has the distinction of being the only currently existing post office named for the famous composer.

Requests for the pictorial cancel, with remittance of Money Order or International Reply Coupons to cover the cost of postage, should be sent to: Mrs. Jean Halldorson, Postmaster, Mozart, SK S0A 2S0.

## CONVENTION CHAIRMAN REPORT:

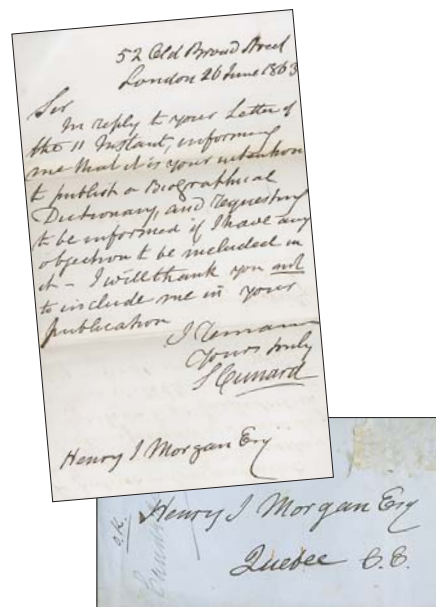
Due to unforeseen circumstances, St. John's, NF, will not be hosting Royal\*2006\*Royale. This is disappointing to everyone and we hope they will be able to host our convention at some future date.

Calgary was able to move from 2009 to 2006 and we are indebted to them for making that change.

### Convention Schedule

- 2005 - London, May 27-29
- 2006 - Calgary, Sept. 29-Oct. 1
- 2007 - Toronto
- 2008 - Quebec City
- 2009 - St. Catharines
- 2010 - open
- 2011 - Montreal, Lakeshore

## SIR SAMUEL CUNARD SIGNED LETTER



Courtesy: Doug Lingard





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# Imperforate 2¢ Map Stamps

By Richard M. Lamb, FRPSC

Before sharing my personal stories and experiences with fellow members of the Map Stamp Study Group, I would like to comment on the status of the imperforate Map stamps.

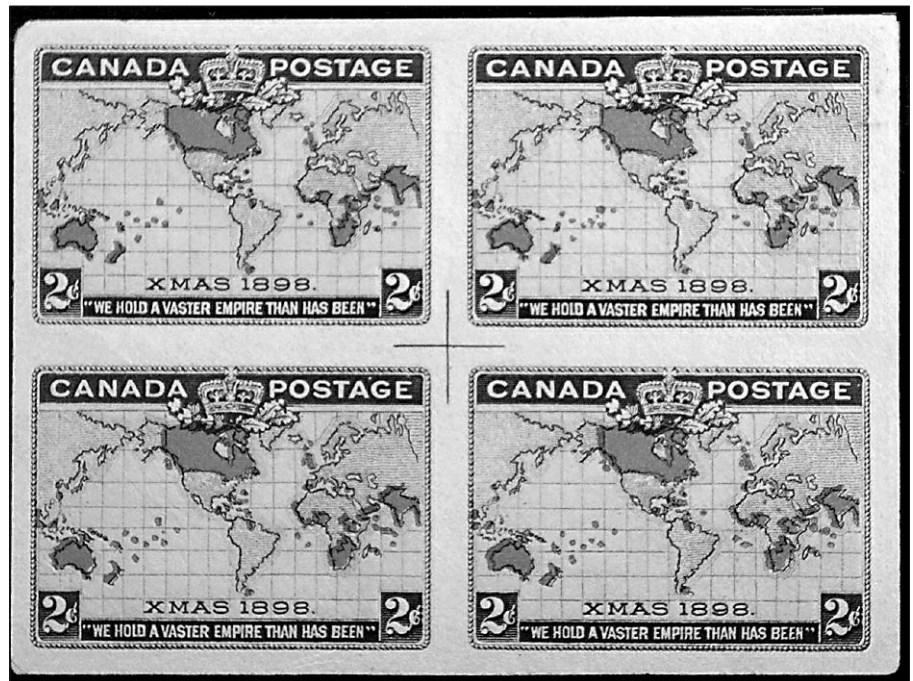
For decades Scott catalogues have listed #85a and #86a as imperforate without gum, and dealers and auctioneers often describe them as "without gum as issued".

The fact is that no Map stamp in this condition was ever officially sold to the public to qualify as legitimate errors and thus join catalogue status.

With proof collectors in a minority, catalogue publishers were always under pressure from the stamp trade to list imperforate stamps as legitimate errors rather than proofs.

According to Fundamentals of Philately published by the American Philatelic Society, the Essay Proof Society in 1944 defined a proof as follows: "Any impression from an officially approved design die, plate or stone, or a new plate made from the approved die in which the design is exactly like the stamp as officially sold to the public, regardless of the colour, kind of paper or material on which it is printed or any experimental treatment to which it was subjected and not used on stamps sold to the public. Proofs were not sold to the public."

*The Essays and Proofs of British North America* by Minuse and Pratt (1970) relegates the Map imperforates or Plate Proofs in normal colour on Stamp Paper to Appendix B values at \$40 for pairs, \$80 for blocks, all four shades.



Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Volume 5, North America (1973) on page 289 states that various imprimatur or proof sheets including 2¢ Maps, were illicitly removed from the archives of the Canadian Post Office. Some 2¢ Map sheets in different colours were said to have had original gum. On page 216 the imperforates are stated to total 1,200 or 12 sheets for the three main shades.

Thefts from the archives and gifts to prominent Post Office officials supplied the stamp trade from the early 1900's on. In the 1929 *Jarrett Stamps of British North America*, Fred priced 2¢ Map imperforate pairs, all colours at \$50 a pair. Jarrett's March 1931

B.N.A. Record offered unpicked 2¢ Maps at \$20 per 1,000 and 200 on cover at \$10. Therefore, at that time an imperforate pair equaled 2,500 stamps or 1,000 covers.

**Sir William Mulock**

Jan. 19, 1844 - Oct. 1, 1944

William Mulock represented York North in the House of Commons as its Liberal member from 1882 to 1905. Prime Minister Laurier appointed him as Postmaster

General in 1896. He served until 1905 and his initials appear on die proofs of Jubilee, Leaf, Numeral, Map and Edward issues.

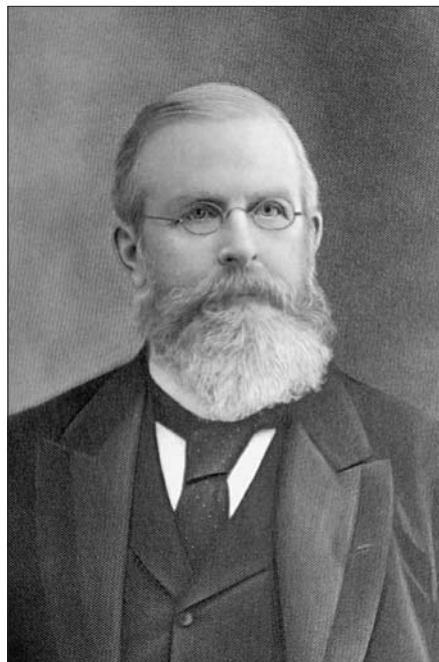
In 1897 he proposed unsuccessfully to the Imperial Postmaster General that a penny (2¢) postage rate be introduced for Canada and within the Empire. Mulock then proclaimed that Canada would adopt a 3¢ rate to England. A conference on Imperial rates was called in London in 1898 and after a bitter debate, Mulock's 2¢ rate was passed by a one-vote margin.

He then was instrumental in having the Imperial cable completed to Australia in 1901. In 1902 he was knighted by King Edward VII for those services to the Empire.

After the Imperial rate conference, Mulock had four artists work on essays for his proposed 2¢ Map and also on a 3¢ design. W.L.Green, president of the American Bank Note Co., also submitted an essay which was more like the approved design. The issued stamps appeared in December, 1898, with the Imperial 2¢ rate effective on Christmas Day.

Presumably the Post Office would normally present the Postmaster General with at least a large die proof of the Map stamp. However, since Mulock conceived the idea, proposed and approved the design, a significant exception appears to have occurred. I suggest that somewhere in the Postmaster General's expense accounts is an invoice for framing a substantial number of imperforate sheets of the Map stamp.

The framed sheets may have been intended to grace the corridors of power in Ottawa or to be



**Sir William Mulock**

hung in the offices of senior postal officials or bureaucrats to emphasize the extent of the British Empire. In 1905, when he retired, or earlier, presumably Sir William had the remaining sheets shipped to his Toronto residence.

On October 1, 1944, the nation mourned the death of Sir William Mulock, a truly great Canadian. At his bedside among others, was Colonel the Honorable W.P. Mulock, Postmaster General of Canada. The Colonel may have been standing within a few feet of the mother lode of imperforate Map stamps. They would have made a great addition to the stamps of the 1920s on sale at the Philatelic Agency in Ottawa. If sold by the Agency; they could have gained true catalogue status!

#### **Milton Leroy Ritter**

In the late 1920s and 1930s, Fred Jarrett and Milton Ritter were among the leading Toronto stamp dealers. Both had offices on or near Yonge Street and both responded swiftly to advertisements listing collections in the Toronto newspapers.

In a book on Fred Jarrett, now in preparation by Gray Scrimgeour and Merrick Jarrett, Fred's notes will express a cautious respect for Ritter and will record some amazing stories.

Ritter attended the first meeting of the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association in October, 1942. Later after a fire at his Yonge Street Arcade stamp and coin shop, Ritter, who was a bachelor, ran his business from his home.

In 1952 I was in the Bloor Subway station stamp shop of Neil Carmichael, late father of Vance Carmichael. Neil purchased a collection, made a phone call and within the hour a stocky figure entered the store. He was protected by a heavy coat and a hat which covered all but his eyes. He quickly checked the lot, paid cash in large bills and left. I innocently enquired regarding this unusual character and was advised in confidence that the visitor was Ritter.

Later that year I visited Ritter at his three-story red brick house at 124 Isabella Street. The door only opened a couple of inches, but unlike many other visitors, I passed scrutiny and was soon seated at the dining room table.

Ritter enjoyed my reaction to unpriced items – if I made an offer it was always too low. At this and subsequent visits I made some minor purchases. Eventually Ritter invited me into the library where he kept his enormous wholesale stock of Canada and his better retail items and collections.

He produced an envelope of imperforate Maps without gum, priced to me at \$30 a pair or \$60 a block in the two main shades. My hourly wage at Massey Harris was only \$1.19 so I had to sell

these at local stamp clubs before buying others. Demand was low as Ritter had flooded the market and placed ads in U.S. stamp magazines.

With my limited means, Ritter obviously saw no reason to offer me a complete sheet. However, he did show me an almost perfectly centered mint sheet of the 50¢ Bluenose which was stored in a rolled up newspaper!

I had no idea then that these imperforate Maps were from a fortunate find made by Ritter a few years earlier. Apparently some time after Sir William Mulock died on October 1, 1944, a pile of household trash was allegedly spotted by Ritter outside the Mulock mansion at 515 Jarvis Street, just around the corner from 124 Isabella. To his surprise it included a number of imperforate Map sheets which either

were or had originally been framed for display purposes.

Members of the stamp trade claimed that the find consisted of between 8 and 16 sheets. It is unclear whether a picker was involved, if workmen were paid off or Ritter had to borrow a wheelbarrow to haul them home.

What is less clear is why after nearly 50 years this hoard was en route to the dump. One would have thought that someone in the family, like the Postmaster General himself, would have realized the significance of this material.

After 100 years, title to any imperforate map stamps is technically in doubt. They are probably actually still the property, of the government which is not planning any action now or ever. Ritter got the sheets home safely but then the fun began. The sheets were glued to a card mat 3/16 of

an inch in thickness by an adhesive which defied all efforts to remove them. Jim Sissons and others were consulted but experiments damaged or destroyed many copies. Finally, it was found that boiling water would do the trick. Bill Maresch clearly recalls soaking off a sheet for a customer by this method with almost perfect results.

Lot 444 in the Sissons' Jarrett sale May 25 - 26, 1960, was described as #86a imperforate block, red omitted which made \$170; could this have been too long in the boil cycle?

In the Sissons' Walter Bayley sale on March 29, 1961, a #86a centre line block of 10 made \$65. It had faults likely caused by attempts to free it from the mat.

Ritter was brutally murdered in his home on March 19, 1971. A man living in the next street was

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charged with non-capital murder on March 21, 1971. This was front page news in the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail* with speculation about the number of imperforate sheets and the value of his huge stock of stamps and coins. Several hundred thousand dollars of old bank notes were found by the Toronto police investigating the crime. The suspect was apparently looking for cash, of which Ritter was known to carry a large amount.

### **The H.R. Harmer Ritter Sale**

*March 6 - 8, 1973*

After a couple of years of rumour and speculation, H.R. Harmer Inc. of New York announced the Ritter stock had

from at least three other sheets. As plate #s were not indicated, they could have been trimmed off to fit the Mulock picture frames. Lot 426, the imprint sheet of 100 of #85a made \$4,000 against a Scott catalogue value of \$5,500 and lot 431, the similar sheet of #85b with the same Scott value, realized \$4,800.

After the sale approximately 11 further sheets, not in equal quantities of the two colours, were sold to the buyer of lots 426 and 431, who was almost certainly Kasimir Bileski of Winnipeg. He could then take over distribution previously controlled by Ritter.

Taking into account personal sales by Ritter, his original find

After noting up to 10 sheets of proofs of some Pence and 1859 issues, a huge lot of 8,095 Numeral issue proofs, disappointed 2¢ Map collectors found only 98 black proofs and 71 black, blue and carmine proofs.

At the time, the significance of the small number of 2¢ imperforate Map proofs offered was not connected to the large number of sheets framed by Mulock and later salvaged by Ritter.

The Canadian Post Office is said to have forced the withdrawal of 186 lots in the sale. It is not clear if they purchased them or claimed title to them in accordance with contracts signed with the printers of the day.

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...a pile of household trash was allegedly spotted by Ritter outside the Mulock mansion... it included a number of imperforate Map sheets which either were or had originally been framed for display purposes.

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been consigned by Canada Permanent Trust, administrator of the estate. Most Toronto dealers and collectors had hoped that a Toronto auction house would handle this important local estate, there being no premium for U.S. funds at that time.

Keith Harmer and Bill Roscher rented a van and picked up the stock in Toronto. Bernard Harmer assisted them in breaking down the huge accumulation into 1,491 lots.

Apart from the 1950 Reford Sales, this may be the only three-day sale of a Canadian consignment not auctioned in Toronto.

I attended the sale with several other Canadian dealers. There were approximately 245 imperforate 2¢ Maps, including two imprint sheets of 100 and blocks

may have been more than 20 imperforate sheets, far more than previously suggested by writers on the subject.

The sales also included about 200 mint 2¢ Maps and also 6,100 used examples, including 5,500 in bundles of 100. However, most bundles had been picked over for cancellations and then made up to strength by fortunate collectors who resold them to Ritter.

### **The American Bank Note Company Archives Sale, New York**

On September 13, 1990, Christies Robson Lowe sold B.N.A. material from the ABN Co. Archives. 2¢ Map collectors, noting the 2¢ Map Essay on the front cover, eagerly examined the 2¢ Map section.

Lot 1828, the 2¢ Map production file, estimated at \$5,000 - \$7,500, was hammered down for \$60,500, including the 10% buyers' penalty!

Of all the lots in the sale, this was probably the most historically significant to the people of Canada, stamp collectors in general and 2¢ Map collectors in particular. This lot should have been repossessed or purchased for or by the Canadian Post Office for display and for researchers to access at the National Postal Museum. ♣

*This article appeared in Volume 4, Number 3, of The 1898 Christmas Map Stamp Newsletter, the official organ of the Map Stamp Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society.*

*Ed.*



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# Outer to Inner Space:

## *Royal Mail Continues its Innovative Program*

By Joseph Monteiro

### I. Introduction

Astronomy, an ancient science, has been in existence since the dawn of recorded civilization. Its impact on human progress is monumental. Uncounted lost sailors and aviators have been guided by the stars in the sky. From stamps on outer space to the recent issue of stamps on inner space, Royal Mail has continued to thrill philatelists in 2003. The inner space stamps commemorate the findings of Francis Crick on the DNA (deoxyribose nucleic acid) sequence that makes each person unique. In April 1953 he stated, "We have discovered the secret of life" that laid the foundations for the Human Genome Project. These stamps and several other issues as described here continue to make Royal Mail stamp program for 2003 very exciting.

### II. Stamp Programme for 2003

The leading graphic artists and stamp designers of these stamps are: John Gibbs, Stephen Dalton, Enid Marx, Michael C. Farrar Bell, George Knipe, Mary Adshhead, Edmund Dulac, Williams Murray Hamm, Johnson Banks, Howard Brown, Kate Stephens, UNA and Phelan Barker Design Consultants. This article describes their stamps and provides technical details and illustrations where available.

Commemoratives:

In 2003, 14 commemorative sets were issued. The commemorative sets cover a diversity of

subjects ranging from birds, vegetables, landscape, transportation, and the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II to the annual releases such as Christmas and Smilers. Brief technical details, as available, will also be mentioned.

1) **Birds of Prey** (1st x 10 - January 14, 2003): To pay tribute to two birds of prey that have been used in heraldry Royal Mail has released a ten-stamp set. The birds of prey, the barn owl and kestrel, belong to the nocturnal and diurnal group of birds. Each of these birds, captured on the wing and depicted on the ten stamp, was taken by bird photographer Stephen Dalton. These stamps were designed by John Gibbs and printed by Walsall Security Printers using lithography. The stamps were printed in a horizontal sheet format of 60 and were perforated with a 14x14.5 perforating gauge. The size of each stamp is 37mm (wide) x 35mm (high). The adhesive used is PVA and the stamps are phosphor coated all over with bird images reversed out. These stamps do not have the usual phosphor bars but instead the phosphor is incorporated into the white and black backgrounds of the stamp.

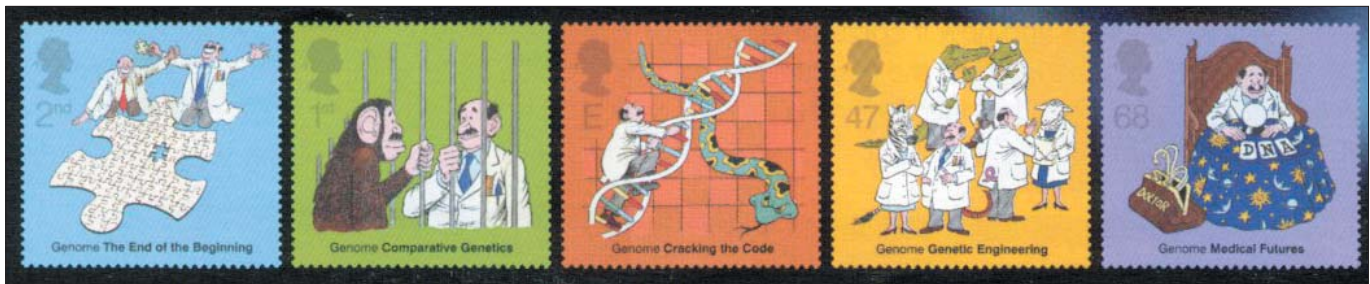
2) **Smilers** (1st x 8 - January 21, 2003): To enable collectors to continue to enjoy the British classic flower garden stamps issued in 1997, these stamps are now being made available as Smilers,

which means you can combine these stamps with your picture or any other picture. These Smilers complement others issued for invitations, birthday greetings and letters. The stamps are available in sheets of 20.

3) **Occasions** (1st x 6 - February 4, 2003): Occasions are usually on everyone's calendar. To remind everyone of this, Royal Mail issued a set of six stamps on Occasions. This is the third set of Occasion stamps and these stamps give customers a chance to interact on a stamp by making their own mark and then sending their own personalized message on an envelope. The messages on these stamps allow customers to congratulate, commiserate, express their love, or give someone the all-important thumbs-up or down. These stamps were designed by UNA and printed by the House of Questa using lithography. The stamps were printed in a horizontal sheet format of 60 and were perforated with a 14x14.5 perforating gauge. The size of each stamp is 41mm (wide) x 30mm (high). The stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate. Royal Mail also released a Smilers Occasions 2003 generic sheet consisting of twenty 1st Class stamps on the six Occasions 2003 stamps. To each stamp is attached a label.

4) **The Secret of Life** (2nd x 1, 1st x 1, E x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - February 25, 2003): The secret





of everlasting life has eluded every researcher so far. One step nearer to understanding this was taken by decoding DNA. To celebrate 50 years of decoding DNA, a set of five stamps was issued by Royal Mail. The DNA of a single person would stretch to the Sun 600 times if spun into a single thread. The five stamps on Genome depict the end of the beginning, comparative genetics, cracking the code, genetic engineering, and medical futures. These stamps were designed by Williams Murray Hamm and printed by Joh Enschedé Security Print using lithography. The stamps were printed in a horizontal sheet format of 50 and were perforated with a 14x14.5 perforating gauge. The size of each stamp is 37mm (wide) x 35mm (high). The stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate.

5) **Fun and Fruit Vegetable** (1st x 10 (different)- March 25, 2003): DIY (do-it-yourself) stamps, consisting of a set of ten fruit and vegetable stamps, were issued by Royal Mail. This is another 'world first' in the area of innovative ideas for stamps. DIY enables the customer to give a stamp its own personality by using special stickers. Customers can then construct their own weird and wonderful world of fruit and vegetable characters, thereby extending the basic design of the stamps. The stamps were designed by Johnson Banks and the photography was by

Kevin Summers. These stamps were printed by Walsall Security Printers using gravure. The stamps were printed in a horizontal sheet format of 10 and are die-cut with simulated perforations. The size of each stamp is 39mm (wide) x 38.5mm (high). The adhesive used is PVA and the stamps are completely phosphor coated.

6) **Extreme Endeavours** (1st x 1, 2nd x 1, E x 1, 42p x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - April 29, 2003): To celebrate extreme endeavours across oceans, deserts, polar regions and the skies, Royal Mail has issued a set of six stamps. The six stamps depict Conquest of Mount Everest (1953), Amy Johnson-Queen of the Air (1903-1941), Freya Stark-Solo Traveller and Writer (1893-1993), Ernest Shackleton-Polar Explorer (1874-1922), Francis Chichester - Yachtsman (1901-1972), and Robert Falcon Scott-Polar Explorer (1868-1912). The stamps

were designed by award-winning designer Howard Brown. These stamps were printed by De La Rue Security Print using gravure. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 50 stamps and are perforated with 15 x 14.5 gauge. The size of each stamp is 60mm (wide) x 21mm (high). The adhesive used is PVA and the stamps are phosphor coated all over.

7) **Coronation** (1st x 10 (different) - June 02, 2003): To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Royal Mail has issued a set of ten 1st stamps. It will enable one to relive the pageantry and enjoyment of June 2, 1953. On that day fifty years ago, the Queen stated "This, my Coronation, is a declaration of our hopes for the future." It summed up in a sentence the aspirations of a nation that was recovering from the aftermath of the World Word II. Five of the stamps capture the



pomp and ceremony of the event in glorious technicolour and the other five stamps are in black and white colours. These stamps were designed by Kate Stephens and printed by De La Rue Security Print using gravure on coated and watermarked paper. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 60 stamps and are perforated with 14.5 x 14 gauge. The size of each stamp is 35mm (wide) x 36mm (high) and the stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate.

8) **HRH Prince William** (E x 1, 28p x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - June 17, 2003): To celebrate the 21st birthday of Prince William,



a set of four special stamps featuring portraits of Prince William was issued. This is the first stamp issue where a member of the Royal Family has had this milestone celebrated in this particular fashion. Prince William was born on 21st June, 1982 at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington in London. He completed school at Eaton College and is going on to study History of Art at St. Andrews University in Scotland. These stamps were designed by Madeleine Bennett and printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. using gravure. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 50 stamps and are perforated with 14.5 x 14.5 gauge. The size of

each stamp is 35mm x 35mm and the stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate. The adhesive used is PVA gum.

9) **Scotland** (1st x 1, 2nd x 1, E x 1, 42p x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - July 15, 2003): To depict Scotland's turbulent history against a dramatic, natural background, Royal Mail has issued a set of six stamps. The stamps depict the following views of Scotland (corresponding to the above values): Ben More, Isle of Mull; Loch Assynt, Sutherland; Rothiemurchus, Cairngorms; Dalveen Pass, Lowther Hills; Glenfinnan Viaduct, Lochaber; and Papa Lit-

tle, Shetland Islands. These stamps were designed by Barker Design Consultants and printed by De La Rue Security Print using gravure. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 50 stamps and are perforated with 14.5 x 14.5 gauge. The size of each stamp is 35mm x 35mm and the stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate. The adhesive used is PVA gum.

10) **Smilers** (1st x 20 - July 29, 2003): A new Smilers Generic Sheet was made available on 29 July, 2003. The Cartoons Generic sheet contains labels alongside stamps featuring crossword clues. The stamps are available in sheets of 20.

11) **Pub Signs** (1st x 1, 2nd x 1, E x 1, 42p x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - August 12, 2003): In August, Royal Mail issued a set of stamps drawing attention to British pubs. The stamps on pubs celebrate the heritage of Britain in a unique way. Pub signs tell stories of kings, queens, religion and history marking events and characters great and small. The stamps depict the following pub signs: the Station; the Black Swan; the Cross Keys; the Mayflower; and the Barley Sheaf. These stamps were designed by Elmwood and printed by De La Rue Security Print using gravure. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 50 stamps and are perforated with 14 x 15 gauge. The size of each stamp is 30mm (w) x 41mm (h) and the stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate. The adhesive used is PVA gum.

12) **Transport Toys** (1st x 1, E x 1, 42p x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - September 18, 2003): Royal Mail issued a set of stamps to celebrate a range of classic toys dating from the 1920s to the 1950s. The stamps depict the following toys: Meccano- constructor biplane, Wells-Brimtoy- clockwork double decker omnibus, Hornby- M 1 clockwork locomotive and tender, Dinky toys- Ford Zephyr and Mettoy- friction drive space ship eagle. These stamps were printed by Joh Enschedé Security Print using gravure. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 50 and were also available as a miniature sheet with each of the stamps issued. The stamps were perforated with a 14x14.5 perforating gauge. The size of each stamp is 41mm (wide) x 30mm (high). The stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate. The adhesive used is PVA gum. Many toys are also sold at Royal Mail and thousands of other

transport toys can be viewed at the Cumberland Toy & Model Museum ([www.toymuseum.co.uk](http://www.toymuseum.co.uk)).

13) **British Museum** (1st x 1, 2nd x 1, E x 1, 42p x 1, 47p x 1 and 68p x 1 - October 7, 2003): On October 7, 2003, Royal Mail issued a set of stamps to celebrate 250 years of the British Museum. It houses a vast collection spanning the millennia and the globe, ranging from the Babylonian boundary stones to the 20th century credit cards. The stamps depict the following: Alexander the Great, Coffin of Denytanum, Sutton Hoo Helmut, Sculpture of Parvati, Mask of Xiuhtecuhtli, and Hoa Hakananai'a. These stamps were printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. using gravure in a sheet format of 50 stamps and are perforated with a 14 x 15 gauge. The size of each stamp is 31mm (wide) x 41mm (high) and the stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate. The adhesive used is PVA gum.

14) **Christmas** (November 03): Royal Mail issued a set of stamps to commemorate Christmas. Christmas stamps have been issued in the UK since 1966. A number of countries follow this tradition to provide us with a sign of hope. It took nearly 400 years of prayer before Christ was finally born on earth.

**Definitives:**

In 2003 Royal Mail issued a number of definitive stamps. Collecting definitive stamps of the UK is the most challenging aspect of modern British philately. A large number of definitive stamps has been issued in 2003 because of two factors: Royal Mail has switched printers to De La Rue Security Print, which will replace Harrison print; and a re-issue of the Wilding stamps with new values.

**Irregular Definitives:**

1) **Wilding Definitives** (May 20, 2003): Dorothy Wilding, a British photographer, was the first woman to be granted 'By Appointment' status to the Royal Family. Dorothy Wilding (1893-1976) designed the first definitive series of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II which were released on December 5, 1952. In December 2002, a miniature sheet containing nine stamps was issued. This was followed by definitive stamps issued on May 20, 2003. Michael C. Farrar Bell designed the (4d) 4p, (3d) 8p and (4 1/2) 10p; George T. Knipe designed the (6d) 20p and (7d) E; Mary

**Regular Definitives:**

1) **Machin Head** (May 8, 2003/July 1, 2003): A new 34p Machin Head stamp was issued on May 6, 2003. The stamp was printed by De La Rue Security Print using the gravure process. On May 28, 2003, the Welsh 2nd Class definitive stamp was issued. This stamp was printed by De La Rue Security Print instead of Walsall Security Print. On July 1, 2003, four high value stamps (£1.50, £2, £3 and £5) were issued. The stamp was printed by De La Rue Security Print using the gravure process rather than the intaglio. The size of all the stamps described in this paragraph are 24mm x 20mm.



Adshead designed the (9d) 28p, (10d) 34p, and (11d) 42p; and Edmund Dulac designed the (1s 6d) 68p. The designs are considered to be classics. These stamps were printed by De La Rue Security Print using gravure on uncoated water-marked paper. The stamps were printed in a sheet format of 9 stamps and are perforated with 14 x 15 gauge. The size of each stamp is 24mm x 20mm. The stamps are phosphor coated as appropriate. The souvenir sheet was designed by Rose Design and the size of each sheet is 70mm x 123mm.

2) **Definitive Coil Stamps:** a) On January 21, 2003 a definitive coil of 500 x 1st class stamps NVI was issued; b) On January 21, 2003 a definitive coil of 500 x 2nd class stamps NVI was issued; and c) On May 28, 2003, the 1st Gold Definitive Stamp Roll was issued. This stamp was printed by De La Rue Security Print. Each coil consists of 500 stamps. The coils were designed to be used in stamp dispensing machines in Post Offices™, etc.

3) **Definitive 1st Class Gold:** On July 1st, 2003, a gummed 1st Class Gold Definitive stamp was

made available. The stamp was printed by De La Rue Security Print. This is the first gold gummed definitive stamp issued.

#### Stamp Booklets:

In 2003, Royal Mail issued two types of booklets: prestige booklets and regular booklets. The prestige booklets provide interesting information and photographs and are certainly among the best in the world.

#### Prestige Stamp Booklets:

1) **Microcosmos:** A guide to Inner Space takes you on a journey inside the human body through cells and chromosomes, and molecules and atoms. It is written by Susan Aldridge. The prestige booklet contains four panes: 1) Pane 1 - 5x2nd Class and 4x1st Class Ireland country definitive stamps; 2) Pane 2 - 4x1st class and E Machine defin-

itive stamps, plus a label of DNA sequences; 3) Pane 3 - 2x2nd class and 2x1st class Secret of Life stamps; and 4) 4xE Secret of Life stamps. The stamps of Northern Ireland were designed by Rodney Miller Associates and the genome stamps were designed by Williams Murray Hamm. The Secret of Life stamps were printed by Joh Enschedé Security Print using lithography; the Northern Ireland stamps were printed using lithography; and the Machine stamps were printed using gravure. The Secret of Life stamps were perforated with a 14x14.5 perforating gauge. The size of Secret of Life stamps is 37mm (wide) x 35mm (high). The Secret of Life stamps are phosphor coated where appropriate and the other definitives have one or two phosphor bars. It should be noted that the prestige booklet only contains

the first three of the Secret of Life stamps described in section I.

2) **Coronation:** On June 2 a prestige booklet entitled A Perfect Coronation was released. This booklet contains four panes: 1) Pane 1 - 4x1st class and 4x2nd class plus a label; 3) Pane 2 - 4x1st class (new commemoratives); 3) Pane 3 - 4x1st class (new commemoratives); 4) Pane 4 - 2 x 68p, 2 x 47p and 1 x £1. The Coronation stamps were designed by Kate Stephens. The stamps were printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. using gravure. The size of the stamps with the Machine Head and Wilding Portrait is 24mm x 20mm with one elliptical perforation on each vertical side. The size of each Coronation stamp is 35mm (wide) x 36mm (high). The size of the £1 stamp is 24mm x 40.5mm. The Machin stamps were printed on coated

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paper; the Coronation stamps were printed on coated and watermarked paper; and the Wilding/Dulac definitive stamps were printed on uncoated and watermarked paper. The stamps have phosphor coating as appropriate. The size of the prestige stamp book is 162mm x 96mm.

Regular Booklets:

1) On March 4, 2003 Royal Mail issued a Occasions 2002 'Hello' retail booklet. This £1.68 booklet consists of 4 x 1st NVI and 2 x 1st NVI Hello stamps. This booklet contains self-adhesive stamps.

2) On March 27, 2003, five self-adhesive stamp retail booklets were issued. The booklets were: a) 4 x European 40g (£2.12); b) 4 x Worldwide 40g (£4.48); c) 12 x 1st Gold NVI (£3.36); d) 12 x 2nd NVI (£2.40); and e) 6 x 1st Gold NVI (£1.68). The booklets noted from c) to e) were printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd.

3) In April 2003, Royal Mail issued a Endeavours Retail booklet. This £1.68 booklet consists of 4 x 1st NVI and 2 x 1st Extreme Endeavours Stamps. This booklet contains self-adhesive stamps.

4) On May 28, 2003, three retail booklets were made available with visible changes to the booklet covers. These booklets, printed by Walsall, reflect a new branding change of Royal Mail's logo, which now has 'The Real Network' placed below the cruciform. The three retail booklets are: a) 6 x E NVI; b) 6 x 42p; and c) 6 x 68p.

5) In September 2003 Royal Mail issued a retail booklet containing six 1st stamps. The six stamps are: 4x1st Machins and 2x1st Transport stamps.

### III. Other Products Issued in 2003

In addition to commemorative stamps, definitive stamps and stamp booklets, Royal Mail has also issued various other products in 2003. Those of greater interest to philatelists are as follows:

1) **Stamp Cards:** Several sets of stamps cards were issued in 2003. These are: a) Birds of Prey (10); b) Occasions 2003 (6); c) Secret of Life (5); d) Fun Fruit and Vegetables (10); e) Extreme Endeavours (6); f) Coronation (10); g) Prince William (1); h) Scotland (6); i) Pub Signs (5); j) Transport Toys; k) British Museum; and l) Christmas. The number after the brackets indicates the number of stamp cards issued in the set. Generally, the number of stamp cards corresponds to the number of stamps issued and each is sold for 25p.

2) **Coin/Banknote/Ingot Covers:** Several covers with a coin or/and banknote or ingot have also been issued. In 2003 these special covers were: a) DNA Discoveries Coin cover; b) Pillar to Post 2nd Class Ingot cover; c) Pillar to Post 1st Class Ingot cover; d) Penny Black Stamp Ingot cover; e) Coronation Coin cover; f) Coronation Banknote cover; g) Coronation Ingot cover; h) Coronation Ingot and Crown; and i) Green Shilling Ingot Pk.

3) **Others:** Besides the above products Royal Mail also issues a number of other products such as: First Day Covers, Yearbooks, Yearpacks, Phone Cards, Albums and Gifts and Collectibles. A complete listing can be found in its Stock List.

### IV. Concluding Remarks

Royal Mail has come up with a fascinating philatelic program for 2003. This is hardly surprising for the year in which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 50th anniversary of her Coronation. Besides commemorative stamps, there were also other interesting products such as new definitive stamps that added to the many varieties to keep the interest of specialists alive. Then there were the prestige booklets that stand out as carefully researched and printed products. In summary, the United Kingdom has always marketed well designed and attractively printed stamps to keep it ahead of nearly every other country in the world. 🍁

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# Transcribing Sounds

By Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC

The author of this study has taken many liberties, with apologies to all concerned, with the rules of philatelic composition and the interpretation of some scientific facts to make the narrative more interesting. Care, however, was taken in accuracy of the information provided.

This article should not be used as an example for the preparation of collections for an exhibition nor be quoted as a scientific work. The purpose of this work is strictly to furnish some basic information and to stimulate further studies in the many areas touched upon here.

PREFACE: Human progression from a gestural to a sound-based language and ability to make tools has also increased mobility of the individual. This generated the need for a greater degree of communications. Writing may have developed from the markings our early gatherer-hunter ancestors left to indicate the area

of their activity (staking out of territories is still the practice of domesticated animals); it may have been initiated by an individual as social interaction grew to indicate the dangers or the bounty of an area or, perhaps, from magic symbols created to appease a deity or repeal evil spirits.

As fascinating as the study of the development of writing is, it is not the scope or purpose of this article. The purpose of this study is to assist the reader in recognition of the many writing systems found on stamps and other philatelic materials. It is with great reluctance that we must leave the theories and foundations of languages to the scientific community.

## DEFINING SOME TERMS

**SCRIPT:** a mark, sign or other manual distortion of a surface such as paper, rock, wood, etc. made by means of a tool be it a



**Egypt's Golden Goddess of Writing**

pen, chisel or other implement for the purpose of conveying a message, telling a story or leaving a record.

**WRITING:** a group of signs or symbols, drawings, etchings or other symbols containing a thought.

**SCRIBE or WRITER:** a person producing a script, symbol, drawing, etc. In some cultures a scribe was a highly regarded professional charged with record



**Shang Dynasty:  
Tortoise Shell  
16-11th Century BCE**



**Han Dynasty:  
Wood Slips  
3rd Century BCE**



**Ming Dynasty:  
Iron Scrolls  
14th Century CE**



**Qing Dynasty:  
Paper Book  
17-20th Century CE**

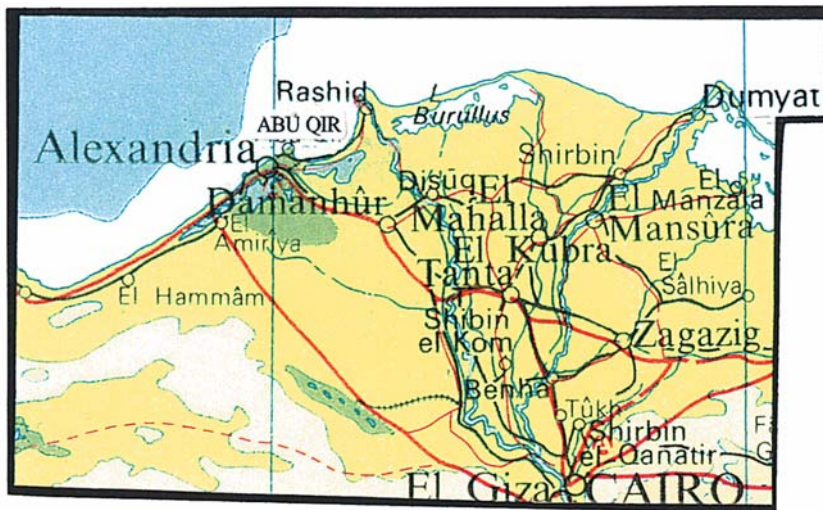
**Writing surfaces used in China through the ages.**

keeping and production of official documents. In medieval times jurists and theologians were referred to as scribes. In some religious communities it denotes a person transcribing sacred texts.

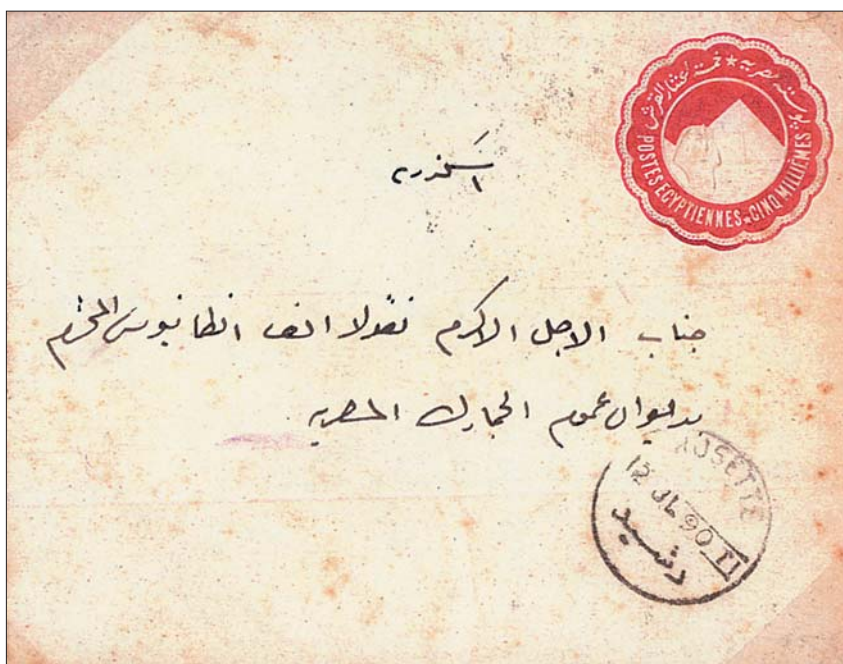
**TRANSCRIBING SOUNDS  
- A PRIMARY SOURCE**

Rosette, Rashid in 1890 had a population of 16,700 people; today it is 40,000. One of the most important rice marketing centers in Egypt, the town lies near the mouth of the East Arm of the Nile opposite the West Arm which empties into the Bay of Abu Qir, Abukir some 13 miles away. The Bay is very dangerous for navigation containing an outcropping of rocks known as Cul-loden's Reef and Nelson's Island. Historically it is known for Nelson's defeat of the French 8.12.1798 and the French victory over the Turks 7.1.1799. To the South we have a fertile land for rice cultivation assisted by a drainage system for the salt swamps dating back to May, 1887.

It is due to the character of these swampy areas that many art objects from Alexandria intended to be destroyed by the many invaders, were able to survive. Among these are the statues of Isis, Horus, Hati, the Fearless Sphinx and, of course, The Rosetta Stone, the "dictionary" to the riddle that were the Egyptian hieroglyphics. ✦



**A map of the East and West arms of the Nile.**



**A postal stationery cover from Rosette to Alexandria, dated at Rosette 12.7.1890 with an arrival postmark at Alexandria on the same date. The exact prepaid postal rate for local delivery was 5 millièmes.**

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# A New Policy for **Austria Post**

By Alf Brooks



Do you collect stamps depicting Canadian subjects? Music on stamps? Jazz? Stamps picturing musical instruments?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, a stamp issued by Austria on November 19, 2003 will be of interest to you. It pictures jazz pianist Oscar Peterson, born in Montréal in 1925, and regarded by many as the most brilliant jazz pianist alive today. The photo of Peterson was taken by Edward Gajdel of Toronto and shows the pianist with a "Bösendorfer" piano in the background. A second stamp in the set, released on November 19, featuring a Bösendorfer was issued in commemoration of the piano manufacturer's 175th anniversary.

However, the Peterson stamp is important for another reason: It is part of a new Austria Post policy. Stamps of Austria are normally printed with the name of the country shown in German as "Österreich." This stamp, however, the second issued this past year, shows the name as "Austria" rather than Österreich. The first was an issue on October 1, 2003 to mark the return to Vienna this year of the musical "Elisabeth" based on the life and death of the Empress Elisa-

beth. A Bavarian princess, she married Emperor Franz Josef in 1854 and was assassinated in 1898, stabbed by anarchist Luigi Lucheni in Geneva. Lucheni had planned on killing an Italian nobleman who didn't appear as expected that day and the Empress became his victim by default.

When I first noticed "Austria" on the Elisabeth stamp I contacted Doctor Erich Haas, Director of the Philatelic Department of Austria Post. The following are his edited comments on the new policy in response to emails I sent him.

*"Austria" is part of my new worldwide selling strategy. Whenever I believe that a stamp could have international interest, especially for newly-interested people and non-collectors, we will use "Austria". But the percentage of these stamps will be definitely less than 25%.*

*I think we have to open our product also for people who are not really stamp collectors, but who are interested in persons, events and in souvenirs. I think that "Österreich" is rather difficult both to read and to spell for most of the people around the world, "Austria" is a little bit simpler. All European languages, for centuries, have always been influenced by other languages. In German, we use many words of French, Slavic and Yiddish ori-*





gin which nobody is aware of, not to talk of the English influences which are, in fact, already part of the German language.

To my knowledge, no other country has adopted this policy. But this does not bother me in any way. All Austrian products sold worldwide are imprinted "made in Austria;" all our athletes in international sports events are shown as competing for "AUT" (for Autriche [French]) since I can remember. The richest Austrian soccer club is named "Austria", another one "Vienna", a third one "Rapid", and nobody wants them renamed "Österreich", "Wien" and "Schnell"

I did get some negative comments from some collectors, but the majority accepts my arguments, as I know from many discussions with philatelists.

We are going to promote this, first of all, by installing a new Internet portal that should be online in January 2004. A small advertising campaign will follow, and we also will be present, for the first time in decades, at international stamp fairs.

One of the focuses next year will be classical music: Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra with Riccardo Muti – New Year's Concert, Seijo Ozawa at the Vienna State Opera House, Jose Carreras – 30 years at the Vienna State Opera, 75th birthday of Nicolaus Harnoncourt. Another focus is religion: Easter stamp (for the first time), Middle European Catholic's Convent – six stamps in the form of a Christian Cross, Christmas market in front of the Salzburg Dome, The Knights of the Holy Grave in Jerusalem. So, you see, 2004 will be an interesting year!

And even although only a few months have passed [since the beginning of this new policy], we already see a high interest – our Internet sales have increased dramatically, and so have our exports to China.

One last point I want to stress: putting "Austria" on some stamps is only a very small part of the strategy. Another one is high quality as you will see in 2004 (9-10 stamps in the unique printing technology "Kombinationsdruck" [a combination of intaglio and photogravure]), and positioning the Austrian stamp as "mirror of important events." ❁

This article first appeared in the November 2003 issue of *The Buffalo*, the official journal of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society.



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# Registered Domestic Post Cards

George B. Arfken and Horace W. Harrison

Registration of post cards was authorized in Department Order (No. 7) that announced the introduction of post cards. The early history of this post card registration is shown in Table 1.

We consider here registered post cards satisfying three conditions:

1. Official Canada Post Cards in domestic use.
2. Registry fee paid with Registered Letter Stamp or Large or Small Queens.
3. Post cards travelling from one post office to another.

Post cards used as drop letters are a separate topic for another article. We have found eight Canada Post Cards fitting all three of these conditions. Table No. 2 lists these eight very special post cards.

1. Taking the eight registered Canada Post Cards in chronological order, the earliest card, shown in Figure 1, was posted in Whitby on September 1, 1876. Addressed to Oshawa, the card was registered with a two cent RLS. (We have not found any Canada Post Cards registered with Large or Small Queen stamps before this date.) This card

had a notice of an assessment of \$1.50 by the Ontario Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. The assessment had to be paid within 60 days of the mailing date to keep the insurance coverage in force. The registration receipt provided the company with proof of the mailing date. The card had a nice little postscript: "Upon payment, however, of amount due the Policy will immediately become revived."

2. Another registered post card in this same correspondence, dated OC 22 77, is illustrated in *Canada's Small Queen Era*, p. 120.<sup>[1]</sup>

DATE	AUTHORIZATION	REGISTRY FEE
June 1, 1871	Official Canada Post Cards issues and registration authorized, Dept. Order No. 7	Two cents
April 11, 1882	Registration forbidden, Dept. Order No. 26	—
May 8, 1889	Registration authorized, NOTICE to the PUBLIC	Five cents

Table 1. Registration of Post Cards

	DATE	RLS	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
1.	SP 1 76	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Whitby to Oshawa	Figure 1
2.	OC 22 77	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Whitby to Oshawa	[1] p.120
3.	DE 13 78	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Toronto to Aurora	[2]
4.	AP 16 81	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Getson's Point, N.S. to Halifax	[3]
5.	DE 4 81	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Lindsay, Ont. to Victoria Road	Figure 2. Longley Auction Nov. 2001
6.	OC 18 84	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Gravenhurst to Barrie (Illegal)	Figure 3
7.	OC 6 85	2¢ RLS	1¢ PC, Gravenhurst to Barrie (Illegal)	[4]
8.	OC 17 96	5¢ SQ	1¢ PC, Montreal to Galt	[1] p.122

Table 2. Registered Domestic Post Cards



**Figure 1. A notice of an assessment by a mutual insurance company in Whitby to a policyholder in Oshawa, SP 1 76.**



**Figure 2. Posted in Lindsay, DE 4 81, and addressed to Victoria Road. From the Rixon Collection, photo courtesy of Longley Auctions.**

3. This December 13, 1878 post card was illustrated by Stulberg.<sup>[2]</sup> This was legal correspondence between two law firms.

4. An April 16, 1881 registered post card from Getson's Point, N.S., six miles SW of Lunenburg, to Halifax is illustrated in *Maple Leaves*.<sup>[3]</sup> This card was a legal notice to appear at a court hearing. Again, registration provided proof of mailing.

5. A fifth registered post card is shown in Figure 2. This card went from Lindsay to Victoria Road. There is a Lindsay, Ont. backstamp. Tom Hillman has advised us that the post office of Victoria Road started as Victoria Road Station in 1873, became Victoria Road in 1876 and closed in 1970, probably for lack of revenue or usefulness. Victoria Road was about 20 miles NNE of Lindsay.

6. Our sixth registered post card (Figure 3.) went from Gravenhurst to Barrie. The interpretation of this card depends upon the bold black (5) on the upper left of the card. There is a faint MUSK...BR SOUTH, OC 18 84 on the back of the card, stamped by a railway post office clerk. The (5) is probably a registry number written by the RPO clerk. There is also an OC 18 84 Barrie backstamp. So, the illegal registered post card went through to Barrie.

There is a possibility that the illegal card was reclassified as a letter. Double the three cent letter rate with one cent credit for the post card would have yielded five cents and account for the bold black (5). Unfortunately there is no DUE or MORE-TO-PAY handstamp to support this hypothesis.

7. The seventh card, dated OC 6 85, is similar to No. 5 and was also illegal. This registered post card is illustrated in BNAPS Exhibit No. 9.<sup>[4]</sup>

8. The eighth registered domestic post card was posted in Montreal, OC 17 96 and addressed to Galt. The registry fee, five cents at this time, was paid with a five-cent Small Queen. This card is illustrated in *Canada's Small Queen Era*, p. 122.<sup>[1]</sup>

Why register a post card? Registration provided proof of mailing and proof of delivery, important for legal matters. Also, the writer may have believed that registration made



**Figure 3. OC 18 84, an illegal registered post card.**

delivery more reliable. I'm grateful to Tom Hillman for an extensive discussion of Victoria Road.

For a comprehensive treatment of Canadian post cards and the regulations governing their use, the authors recommend Allan Steinhart's text.<sup>[5]</sup> 🍁

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- [1] *Canada's Small Queen Era*, Arfken.
- [2] *Stulberg, Fred - Registered Postcards, Can. Phil. vol. 23, p.119, May 1972.*
- [3] *Cohen, S.F. - Not so much a Postage Stamp... More a way of Franking, Part IX, Maple Leaves vol. 12, pp. 3-4, Oct. 1967.*
- [4] *Lussey, Harry W. - Registration Markings and the Registered Letter Stamps, BNAPS Exhibit No. 9, 1998.*
- [5] *Steinhart, Allan L. - The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada, 1871 - 1911, Toronto, 1979.*



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**BNAPS – The Society for Canadian Philately**

# In Search of

By Raymond W. Ireson

# *El Dorado*

The Spanish Conquistadors sought in vain for “El Dorado” (the ‘Golden one’) in the high Andes of Colombia: I, too, am searching for an “El Dorado”, albeit of a different kind, but which, coincidentally, is also located in the high Andes of Colombia.

Ah, therein lies a tale which I think is worth recounting.

(You know, one of the side benefits of philatelic writing is that there might be a reader out there who can provide some valuable input to the author and help him unravel a mystery which has been puzzling him for quite a while. It is with such fond expectations that I set down the following story concerning a private mail service which supposedly operated in Colombia in 1870. If any reader can answer any of my nagging questions – set out further on – I would appreciate it very much if they would kindly contact the editor.)

The news that Christopher Columbus had discovered a new world whose lands were filled with riches was a catalyst for Spanish fortune seekers to flock to the Americas. Oh, to be sure, the primary objective was to build the Spanish Empire, but then if one could pick up a few nuggets of gold here and there, well, what was wrong with that?

One could argue that such perks were more or less that bygone day’s equivalent of our Canada Old Age Pension benefits! Present-day Colombia was the primary target of the early Spanish conquest.

One of those Spanish Conquistadors was Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada. With his troops he travelled from the Caribbean coast up the Magdalena valley until he reached a plateau some 2,600 metres high in the Andes.



After the sweltering heat of the jungles, the cool climate of the high Andes was a welcome respite and Jiménez decided that would be a fine spot to establish a settlement.

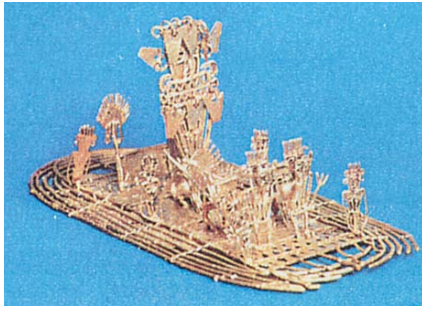
So, a secluded valley was selected and there, on August 6, 1538, the first Mass was celebrated and Santa Fé de Bogotá was founded. In time it became the capital city of Colombia.



But on his travels to the uplands of the Andes, Jiménez had passed through the territory of the Muisca tribe, and it was from them that he heard about “El Dorado”.

According to the legend, upon the accession of a new Muisca ‘cacique’ (chieftain) he would seclude himself in a cave for several days of meditation on the new responsibilities he was about to undertake. Eventually he would emerge, completely naked, and his entourage would proceed to cover him with mud, after which they sprinkled gold dust all over him. Then they would all embark on a raft and paddle to the centre of their sacred lake. There EL DORADO (the Golden one) would jump into the lake and wash himself clean and his followers would toss gold ornaments into the waters as an offering to their water-mountain-earth deity.

In 1978 the Colombian Post Office issued a stamp honouring the Muisca culture (as part of an extended set honouring all of their pre-Columbian tribes) and



**Cultura Muisca**

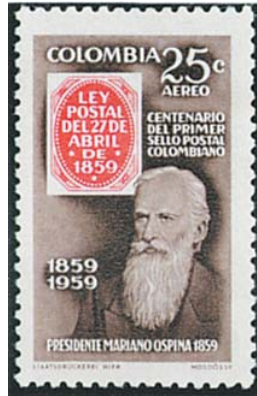
the cachet of the official FDC features a Muisca pure gold model of the raft. The artifact was retrieved from the waters of Lake Guatavita and today it reposes in the Gold Museum of Colombia's Central Bank in Bogota

The Muisca goldsmiths were consummate craftsmen as were those from several other tribes. The contents of the Gold Museum in Bogota have to be seen to be believed!



In vain did Jiménez, and many others after him, search for this mythical EL DORADO. Their quest could be likened to the search for the mythical Pot of Gold at the end of the rainbow! But gold did exist in the region.

And now a quantum leap forward in time to the year 1859. On April 27th of that year the administration of President Mariano Ospina enacted a law which completely transformed the Colombian postal system and introduced the use of adhesive postage stamps to prepay carriage of mail.



That legislation recognized the fact that the system could not possibly provide country-wide mail delivery service, so provision was made for the contracting out of some mail routes to independent third parties. Later on those independents were permitted to issue their own stamps to denote payment of their transport fees... but national stamps had also to be affixed to such mail.

The only catalogue I am aware of that lists these Private Carrier issues is that of LEO TEMPRANO of Bogota, Colombia. He lists a total of 14 such entities and the first is that of CORREO SEMANAL DEL DORADO. This is a translation of the Spanish listing: WEEKLY MAIL OF EL DORADO.

This mail service was established by an English company around the years 1863-1866 to operate between Bogotá and the Lagoon of Siecha.

And here is a photocopy of the catalogue listing:



Incidentally, don't even wonder as to what COP 30,000 might be in CAN\$. Just reflect that this is the highest valuation given to any of the Private Post issues. The second highest was only COP 500 and that was for a variety! Now, isn't that telling you something about its rarity?

However, the background of this issue is still a great mystery as far as I am concerned. But first, let us take a look at the entity which purportedly issued it.

Mr. Enrique Urdaneta, a Colombian national, seemingly came upon (from what source is not revealed) reliable information that the Muisca's sacred lake was the LAGOON OF SIECHA and not the Lake of Guatavita, as previously surmised although some artifacts had been retrieved from that lake: see the Muisca raft. If that was true, then a sizeable fortune lay at the bottom of that lagoon. Sometime in the mid 1860s Mr. Urdaneta formed a partnership with an English mining engineer, George Crowther, with the objective of draining the lagoon and retrieving those golden treasures. Up to now I have been unable to learn the name of their company, or partnership, but there is no doubt that it did exist.

And it would have been a Colombian entity... not an English one, as stated in Temprano's catalogue listing.

I have in my collection on this subject the original notarial deed prepared by Narciso Sanchez of the Bogotá Circuit Registry, dated December 5, 1866, whereby Guillermo Paris and Rafael Chacon "cede, endorse and transfer" their shares in the Lagoon known as "Siehecha" (sic), in the District of Guasca, to Enrique Urdaneta. The deed goes on to say that Urdaneta undertakes to drain the lagoon and share with the other parties the proceeds of whatever treasure he locates therein. That was the consideration for the Agreement... all costs to be borne by Urdaneta.

At this point I must interrupt the flow of my story to relate a most remarkable find of this "Correo Semanal del Dorado" material in a Three Rivers, Que., dealer's auction a few years ago. I contacted him and asked if he thought he had any realistic chance of disposing of it here in Canada. He said that he was sure he could. However, after the auction closed he called me and said, "You were right. I had only one bid on one item... and that was from you! I tell you what: you can have the whole caboodle for \$ xxx". And so, for a relatively modest amount I acquired what has since been acknowledged to be the largest assembly of this material known to exist. I asked the dealer where he had acquired it and his reply was that he used to be a collector but now that he was getting long in the tooth he was slowly disposing of his holdings through mini-auctions. He said he'd had that material for well over 30 years, but couldn't recall

where he had obtained it. In fact, he wasn't too sure just what the material was!

Now, included in all that "caboodle" was some original correspondence written by Crowther to Urdaneta on a regular weekly basis, informing him as to the progress being made. It seems that from very early on Crowther realized that draining the lagoon was an impossibility because an underground stream was flowing into it! However, he had discovered a lode of valuable iridium at the site and convinced his partner to abandon the lagoon drainage project and concentrate on mining the iridium deposit instead.

And here we come back to the "Correo Semanal del Dorado" mail service.

How were Crowther's letters delivered to Urdaneta in Bogotá? The mail route between Choconta and Bogotá, which had passed through Guasca (nearest location to the mine site), had been closed at the time of this narrative. It was unprofitable. And so there arose the need for this private mail service which seemingly was operated by the Mining concern itself! The mine site was totally uninhabited for miles around and so the only correspondence to be carried by this "Private Mail Service" was Crowther's letters to Urdaneta. And how was the mail conveyed? It is my own conviction that the letters were handed to a company "peon" with orders to ride a mule to Bogotá and deliver it to Mr. Urdaneta. If indeed such was the case, then why was a stamp needed to pay for carriage? To whom was the 'postage' payable?

AND NOW WE COME TO LOOK AT THE STAMP.

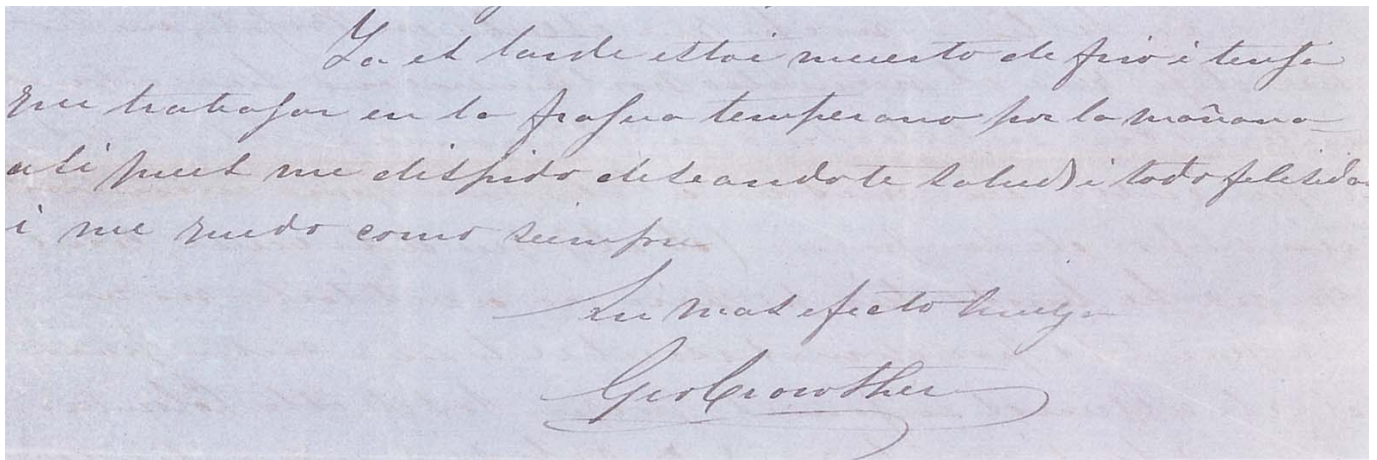


Laid Paper

Isn't it a ghastly looking thing? Absolutely nothing is known about its origins. As can be readily seen, the production is primitive in the extreme. It would seem to have been a wood-cut, and printed one by one. The paper? Well, from the examples in the lot I acquired there are laid paper, wove paper, pelure paper with flowers spray watermark, greenish pelure paper, bluish pelure paper and bluish quadrilled paper. It is my hypothesis that Crowther made these 'stamps' himself, using any spare piece of paper that he could lay his hand on. But the questions that nags me is, why? For what purpose? From all that I have been able to learn, no other mail was ever transported by that private service. Don't forget, in that remote Andean area in those years there were no literate individuals other than Crowther who was able to pen a letter. Hence my question: why the need for a 'stamp'?

Let us look more closely at this "stamp". The initials at the top, "EUC" at first I thought they might be those of Mr. Urdaneta but then I came to realize that they stand for "Estados Unidos de Colombia" as the country was then known.

Then, after the name of the service, "Correo Semanal del



**In his closing paragraph of this Jan. 31, 1870 letter, Crowther says that it is late and that he is "frozen to death!"**

Dorado" is the value inscription: "Porte 1 Real". Just as a 10-cent coin in the USA is slangily referred to a "dime", so was 10 centavos in Colombia known as a "real". But no Government issue of stamps or coinage was ever inscribed in that manner.

Then the word "FRANCA" is added. It means that postage had been paid. But, my question is: to whom was it paid? There was Crowther up in the high Andes surrounded by nothing but wildernes: so who was there around to could collect his 1 real postage that he was purportedly paying?

The single used copy and all covers in my collection are cancelled with an inked initial "G". Who was this mysterious "G"? I thought it might have been penned by George Crowther, the mailer, but then when I compared it with the "G" in his signature on the various letters I could see that the two did not match. Therefore, who scribbled the "G" cancel on those 'stamps' and what did it stand for? If my hypothesis that a company peon was the person



who conveyed the "mail" from the mine site to Bogotá is correct, then what intermediary party could have "cancelled" the stamp, and why?

Prior to my discovery of this find, only one entire folded letter was known to exist. It reposes in the philatelic collection of the Banco de la Republica (Colombia's Central Bank) in Medellin and it was that item which merited its recognition in Leo Temprano's catalogue. It had been owned by a German national who donated it to the philatelic collection



before returning to Germany prior to WWII. Hen's teeth are known to be more plentiful than single copies of this 'stamp' or even any type of this material, according to Colombian sources.

Temprano's catalogue listing mentions a tete-beche, but not in a block of four. I find it hard to understand how a block of four could be generated if these stamps were hand-stamped one by one unless it was done intentionally for philatelic purposes but somehow I do not think so.

In the whole "caboodle" of this material which I acquired there are copies of correspondence exchanged in 1940 and 1941 between a former owner, one Fernando Nieto Ramos, a descendant of Enrique Urdaneta, and Scott Publishing Co. with a view to having the



latter recognize this stamp in their catalogue. Because nothing was known about the origins of the item, Scott declined to give it a listing. But then neither does Scott recognize any of the other Colombian private mail carrier issues whose provenance is well documented. Such issues are outside their sphere of coverage.

I cobbled all my material together and made a one-frame exhibit for the "Display Class" category. At the urging of my friend, Dieter Bortfeldt, in Bogotá (who, incidentally, took the photograph illustrated on the magazine cover) I entered it in the National Philatelic Exhibition of Colombia last year. The doubts that I had entertained as to whether this "stamp" is kosher were dispelled by the Colombian Jury. The exhibit was the only one in the whole show to receive 20 points out of 20 for "Rarity", and I was informed that the Judges almost had kittens when they saw the amount of this material (as relatively sparse as it is) in my exhibit. However, I still

haven't been able to obtain a sensible answer to my nagging question as to the *raison d'être* for this "stamp". Just as the Spanish conquistadors searched for El Dorado, I am searching for answers to my questions surrounding this "Correo Semanal del Dorado" item!

Will I eventually have any better luck than the Conquistadors? Maybe someone who reads this article can enlighten me with some answers to my questions.

And so what became of the iridium mining venture?

All the letters written by Crowther to Urdaneta are really progress reports on the mining operation. The last letter in my accumulation is dated November 7, 1870. It tells that only one final blasting operation is needed to get the project operational. "Digging" has unearthed the fact that on November 16th the final charge was due to be lit. The two workers who went down into the shaft to perform that duty

failed to return. So two more workers were despatched to find out what was wrong. They too, did not resurface. In all, 13 workers – including Crowther – went down the shaft and to their deaths. Obviously they were overcome by a deadly gas seepage. The mine entrance was sealed, and that was the end of the mining venture. And seeing that no further letters from the "Correo Semanal del Dorado" have ever surfaced, one has to conclude that the service's demise coincided with that of the mining venture. And, by the way, no correspondence addressed to someone other than Enrique Urdaneta has ever surfaced which confirms my hypothesis that this "private mail service" was confined to Crowther and Urdaneta. No mail from Urdaneta to Crowther has ever surfaced. Presumably such correspondence was carried back by the peon to the mine site without the benefit of a "stamp"! So why was one deemed to be necessary to convey a letter in the opposite direction?

To paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill, "This is a Riddle, wrapped in a Mystery, inside an Enigma".

Today, the area where that mining operation was located forms part of the CHINGAZA NATIONAL PARK, where bears and deer roam, and occasionally a condor can be spotted. The area abounds with the frailejon, a wild plant that will not grow below an elevation of 3,400 metres, and it grows at a rate of only 1 centimetre a year. If only those frailejon could talk. Maybe they could tell us something more about this CORREO SEMANAL DEL DORADO, if the 'postman' passed their way. ✦



**This is one of only two such blocks known to exist.**

# ROYAL \*200

photography by Lorna and Carmichael Wallace



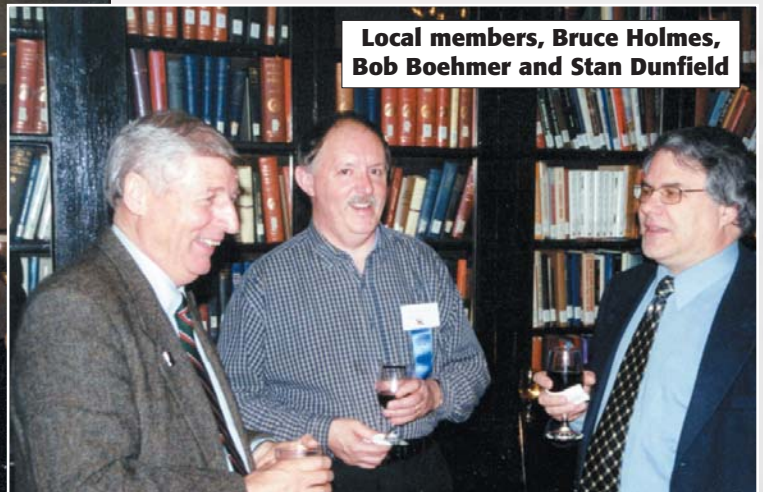
**Registration: Marilyn and Lloyd Melanson.**



**Alain Guibert, V.P. of Communications, Canada Post**



**At the dealers tables.**



**Local members, Bruce Holmes, Bob Boehmer and Stan Dunfield**



**Unveiling Cunard-Allan stamps**

# 04\* ROYALE



**Lorraine Rasmussen, granddaughter of Henry Hechler, cutting ribbon held by Convention Chair Michael Peach, and RPCS President Charles Verge.**



**Great Britain Collectors Club President Gordon Mulne.**



**Judge John Hall explains the Court Of Honour exhibit of Nova Scotia Stamps to his son.**



**Sandy Clark by his exhibit**



**At the Bourse.**

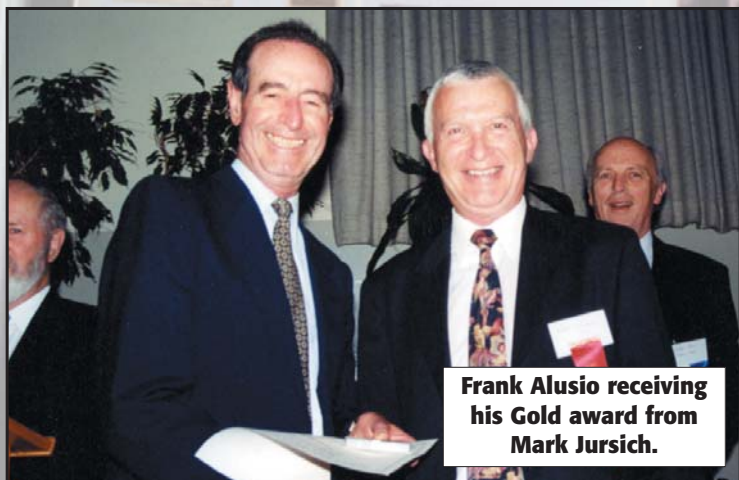
ROYAL \*2004\* ROYALE • May 28 -30, 2004



**The Judges: Doug Lingard, Patrick Delmore, Joel Weiner, David Piercey (chair), Mark Jursich, John McIntyre & John Hall.**



**Ray Corbett, Gold, with Mark Jursich.**



**Frank Alusio receiving his Gold award from Mark Jursich.**



**Charles Verge and David Piercey present Sandy Clark with the Grand Award.**

## YOUTH EXHIBITS

### VERMEIL

- K. Glatzfelder - Chess: Game of Champions
- K. Glatzfelder - The Vostok Program
- A. O'Reilly - In Come The Pigs...

### SILVER

- O. Esau - Track & Field
- K. Miller - Helicopters
- J. Barron - Milestones in the History of Aviation

### SILVER-BRONZE

- A. Faulkner - Transportation in Stamps
- A. Miller - Ballet
- T. Murphy - Sailing Ships

### BRONZE

- A. Thomas - Birds
- S. Thomas - Butterflies
- C. Faulkner - Space

## SENIOR EXHIBITS

### GOLD

- G. McCleave - Registered Letter Stamps- Canada
- D. Smitham - Letter Coding
- J. Cooper - Booklets Under Four Reigns
- "The Brigham Collection" - The Dominion of Canada: The Maple Leaves and Numerals, 1897-1902
- B. Summerell - George Edlin, First Postmaster, Scott Base
- J. Banfield - Iraq: Rates and Routes 1932-1958
- S. Clark - Early Nova Scotia Postmarks
- H. Burgers - Canadians in Russia: The Last Contingent of WWI
- W. Topping - Canadian Pacific Steamships way mail
- J.R. Corbett - Edinburgh: A Postal History to 1901
- M. Peach - Postal Union Letter Rates - Victorian Britain
- F. Alusio -The Unification of Italy
- W. Wilkinson - Prince Edward Island Postal Rates, January 1, 1860 to July 1, 1873
- J. Kasper - Illustrated WWII British Military Airletters
- J. Kasper - Southern Rhodesia Military Airletters
- J. Kasper - New Zealand Prisoner of War Aerogrammes
- P. Wales - The 1901-04 British Antarctic Expedition
- C. Verge - Roots, Necks & Crowns: A Look at Teeth and Dentistry
- J. & S. Long - The Horse in Our Lives

### VERMEIL

- H. McNaught - Canada - 1897 Jubilees
- F. Brisse - The First 150 Years of Bordeaux Postal Markings
- R. Martin - Newfoundland Surface Mail
- J. Walsh - Newfoundland Plate Numbers 1897-1947
- G. Steele - Canadian Covers to Foreign Destinations Carrying Postage Due or Regular Issue Stamps, Small Queen to 1952
- M. Zelenietz - Israel 1948: An Introduction to the Transition Period
- G. Fiala - An Outline of Russian Music

This column reports the results of philatelic and literature awards in national-calibre exhibitions in Canada and the awards won by RPSC members, Canadian owned exhibits and exhibits of Canadian material in international exhibitions.

Cette chronique liste les résultats obtenus dans les expositions philatéliques et de littérature nationale et les expositions quasi-nationales d'intérêt aux lecteurs ainsi que les résultats obtenus par les Canadiens, les membres du SRPC et les collections de matériel canadien dans les expositions internationales.

**By / Par  
Richard Thompson**

## SILVER

- D. Harvey - Nova Scotian Fakes and Forgeries
- K. Magee - Ireland: The Gerl Definitives
- H. Bignell - A Selection of Rate Covers of the Admiral Era
- B. Carrier - About Pipe Organs
- R. Ireson - In Search of El Dorado
- R. Ireson - Colombia... The Classic Issues: 1859-1866
- D. Johnstone - The Early Years of Burlington's Postal Connections with Canada
- D. Cooper - U.K. Transatlantic Mail 1939-1953: The 1/3 (15d) rate with multiples and variations
- R. Martin - New Brunswick Pre-Confederation Stamped Mail, 1851-1868
- R. Martin - Nova Scotia Pre-Confederation Stamped Mail 1851-1868
- H. McNaught - Canada - The Half Cent Small Queen Issue of 1882-1897
- R. Elias - Paper Texture of Canadian Pre-Centennial Elizabethan Definitives
- R. Smith - Fancy Cancels on Small Queens
- M. Zelenietz - Lakatoi!!
- K. Lewis - The Min Hsien Chu Postal System of China
- R.W. Paige - Great Britain- The Line Engraved One Penny Stamp- Officially Perforated

## SILVER-BRONZE

- C. Rasmussen - The Danish Caravel Issues
- C. Rasmussen - Danish Collection Office Cancels on the Danish and Faroese Caravel Issue.
- D. Trathen - Horse Breeds of the Continents
- J. Hodgson - Canada Post- Express Labels
- D. Nickson - Saint John, N.B. Commercial Mail, circa 1875-1915
- C. Troup - Welland Railroad- Railway Post offices 1864-1926
- A. Benitah - 75 Years in the History of the Automobile
- C. Wallace - Cape Triangles: real or fake; or will the real Hope please stand up?
- V. Skidra - Postal History of Wenden (Cesis in Latvian) 1842-1929

## BRONZE

- C. Wallace - New Zealand: The Stamps of the Victorian Era
- J.R. Corbett - Postal Reform and the Birth of the Penny Black and Mulready Stationery
- T. Yuen - The History of World Cup Soccer (1930-2002)
- G. MacKenzie - Almost Full Circle
- J. Riviere - Les Oiseaux du Monde
- J. Sodero - An Overview of the Postal History of Guysborough Nova Scotia
- C. Wallace - The World's First Stamp
- C. Wallace - Helvetia: The Early Definitive Issues of Switzerland

## GRAND AWARD

(sponsored by Canada Post)

- Sandy Clark, NS - Early Nova Scotia Postmarks

## RESERVE GRAND AWARD

(donated by Ron Brigham)

- John Cooper, QC - Booklets Under Four Reigns

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS AWARDS

### AAPE AWARD PINS

- Marty Zelenietz, NS - Lakatoi!!
- François Brisse, QC - The First 150 Years of Bordeaux Postal Markings

### AAPE YOUTH AWARD

- Amber O'Reilly, NT - In Come the Pigs...

### AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARDS

#### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRE-1900

- Warren Wilkinson, US - Prince Edward Island Postal Rates, January 1, 1860 to July 1, 1873

#### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 1900-1940

- William Topping, BC - Canadian Pacific Steamships Way Mail

#### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 1940-1980

- Jerry Kasper, US - Illustrated WWII British Military Airletters

#### APS RESEARCH AWARD

- Robert Elias, MB - Paper Texture of Canadian Pre-Centennial Elizabethan Definitives

#### AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY AWARD

- Jenny Banfield, New Zealand - Iraq: Rates and Routes 1932-1958

#### AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION AWARDS

**First:** Charles Verge, ON - Roots, Necks & Crowns:

A Look at Teeth and Dentistry

**Second:** Jeff and Stephanie Long, New Zealand - The Horse in Our Lives

**Third:** George Fiala, QC - An Outline of Russian Music

**One Frame Merit Award:** Frank Alusio - The Unification of Italy

**Youth Award:** Amber O'Reilly, NT - In Come the Pigs...

#### POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA AWARD

(for the best British North America Postal History Exhibit)

- Sandy Clark, NS - Early Nova Scotia Postmarks

#### BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARD

(for the best BNA Exhibit)

- Sandy Clark, NS - Early Nova Scotia Postmarks

#### THE TOM CURRENT GBCC FOUNDER'S AWARD

(sponsored by Great Britain Collectors Club

for the best Great Britain Exhibit)

- Jerry Kasper, US - Illustrated WWII British Military Airletters

#### HENRY HICKS AWARD

(sponsored by Linda and Henry Hicks, Jr.

for the best exhibit by a member of the NSSC)

- Graham McCleave, NB - Registered Letter Stamps- Canada

#### MADGE MORISON AWARD

(presented by the NSSC for outstanding contribution to philately in Nova Scotia)

- Michael Peach, NS

#### KEN C. MACDONALD AWARD

(presented by the NSSC for contribution to the study of Nova Scotia Postal History)

- Sandy Clark, NS - Early Nova Scotia Postmarks

#### NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB AWARD

(presented by the NSSC for the best Youth Exhibit)

- Amber O'Reilly, NT - In Come the Pigs...

# Great Britain Volume 1

## Queen Victoria Specialized Stamp Catalogue

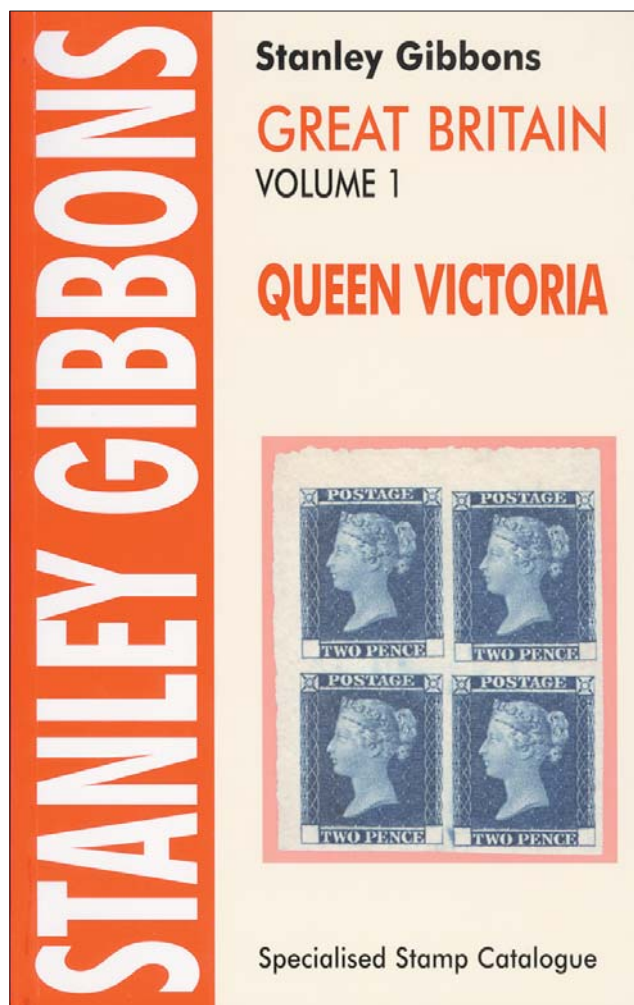
Published by Stanley Gibbons (Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 3SH); ISBN 0-85259-556-5. Soft cover, 488 pages, 8½ X 15½; Retail price 29.95 British Pounds.

Printed on high-gloss paper, the 13th edition of Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Volume 1 Queen Victoria Specialized Stamp Catalogue* includes just about everything that specialists of Great Britain's Queen Victoria stamps would want at their fingertips. The print is easy to read despite its sometimes small size. Illustrations, in black and white, are crisp and clear.

Beginning with essays, the 488-page catalogue takes the student through the stamp manufacturing process to die and plate proofs, colour trials, and to the stamps as finally released.

A 12-page introduction, some of it updated from the previous edition, touches on the historical highlights of Great Britain's Royal Mail. Although much of this information will be familiar to long-time philatelists, it serves as an excellent primer for newcomer collectors and others not familiar with this particular facet of postal history. The overview covers such topics as the long struggle for postal reform in Britain, the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage, prepayment of postage, the origin of the adhesive postage stamp, innovative postal stationery, and similar items.

The bulk of the information included in the catalogue, quite appropriately, deals with the Victorian issues in all their minutiae. Introductory notes, including a list of symbols and abbreviations used throughout the text, and six fully illustrated appendices, complement a thorough piece of work that is much more than its modest title suggests.



Although at a price of 29.95 British Pounds the catalogue must be placed in the medium to high-end price range of philatelic publications, the comprehensive information contained in this volume may be difficult to find in any other single source at any price. The work is a quality and useful product that every collector of Great Britain's Victorian issues will be proud to own. ✦

**Tony Shaman**

# From Port Arthur to Brussels

By Ken Lewis

The postcard shown in Figures 1 and 2 had a very long journey from start to finish and was kindly made available for this article by Steven M. Roth of Washington D.C., USA. On the 2nd of July 1902 this postcard travelled by rail from the southern part of northern China to Vladivostok, Russia, across Manchuria to Siberia and finally across most of Europe into Belgium, a total distance of about 8,000 miles. To be consistent throughout the article the spelling of the Russian and Chinese places use the standard Western forms as found in the majority of world atlases. Within this article are sections giving more information about Port Arthur (now Lushun), the railways used, the postcard, postal details of the time, a conclusion and bibliography that can be read as desired. But reading all the sections in order will put everything into a better context.

## Port Arthur

Port Arthur is situated at the tip of the Dairen Peninsula in the Liaoning Province of Manchuria. This peninsula juts out into the Gulf of Chihli opposite the port of Chefoo, northern China. Port Arthur consists of two parts, the Old and the New Town. The New Town was built when the Russians leased the province from the Chinese during the 1890s. The railway station and most of the administrative and local government offices are located in the Old Town.

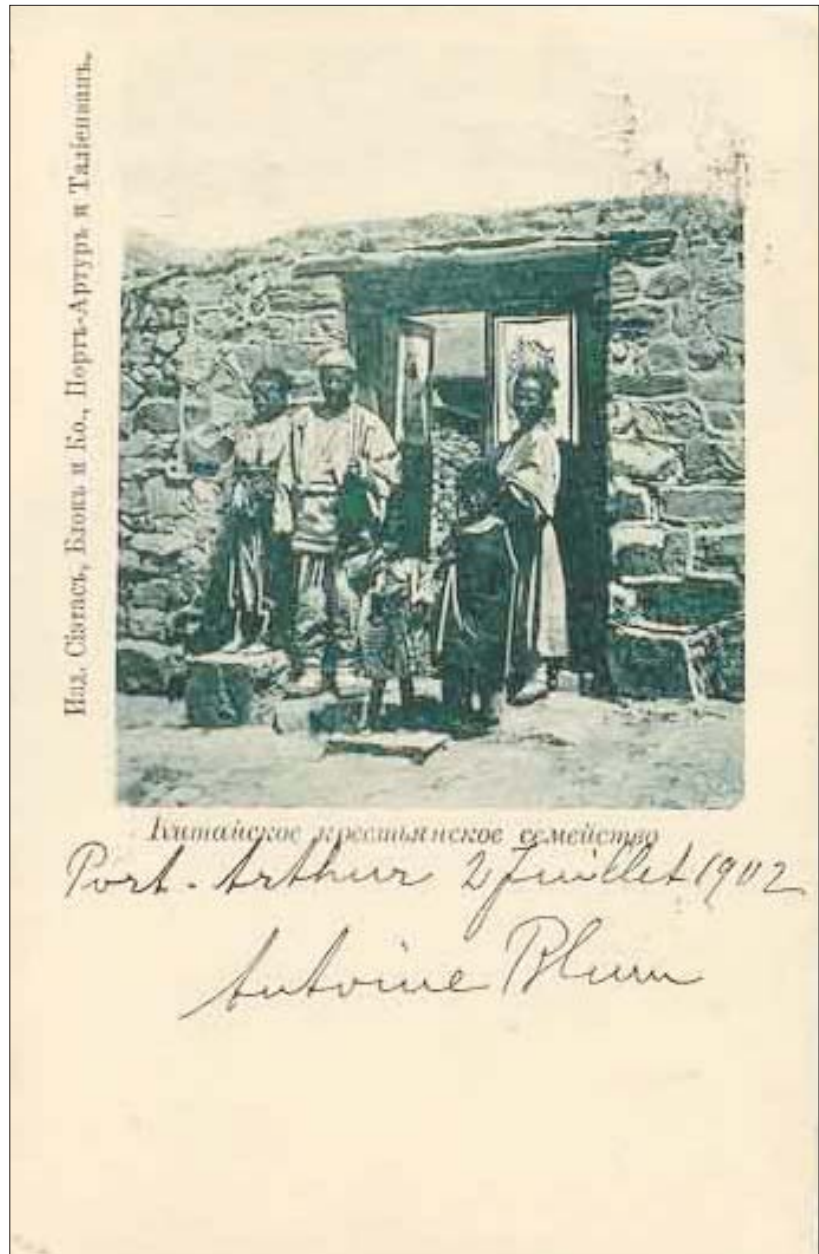


Figure 1.

While the Russians had the leasehold of this province they also were granted use of the rest of Manchuria for projects that would be agreed to between themselves and China. China Proper is contained within the Great Wall of China and because

Manchuria is outside the wall it is regarded as being part of Greater China.

## Railway details

What most people do not realize is that the Trans-Siberian Railway termini were St.

**Figure 2.**

Petersburg in the west and Harbin, Manchuria in the east. From Harbin the Russians built two branch lines - the Central Manchurian Railway to Port Arthur (612 miles from Harbin) and the Chinese Eastern Railway to Vladivostok (918 miles from Harbin) at the eastern extremity of Russia. Even though there were three trains operating daily on the Trans-Siberian Railway only one of them carried mail.

The five-foot Russian railway gauge was the same as some of the early railway lines built in parts of eastern England. These eastern England railways that originally used this five foot gauge were the Northern & Eastern and the London & Blackwall Railways.

For readers interested the designated line number of the Russian controlled lines between Russia and China are:

Eastward  
(Westward)

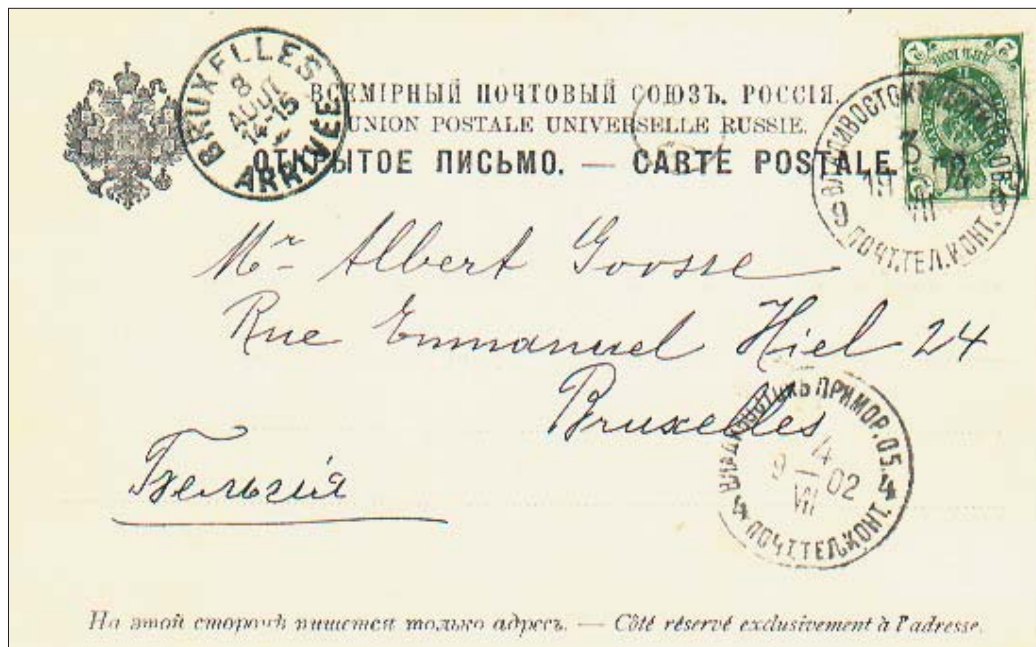
259 - Chita to Manchouli  
(260 - Manchouli to Chita)

261 - Manchouli to Harbin  
(262 - Harbin to Manchouli)

263 - Harbin to Vladivostok  
(264 - Vladivostok to Harbin)

265 - Harbin to Port Arthur  
(266 - Port Arthur to Harbin)

When the section of the Trans-Siberian Railway from Chita to Vladivostok had been built completely on Russian territory,



just before the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, the whole of the line from Chita to Vladivostok was redesignated the Chinese Eastern Railway and the Central Manchurian Railway (Harbin to Port Arthur) became the South Manchurian Railway.

**The Postcard**

At Port Arthur this postcard had the postmark dated for 2nd July 1902, but apparently and for some unknown reason no stamp was affixed. The tiny faint Port Arthur postmark can be seen to the left of the stamp and over the 'SELLE' portion of the word 'UNIVERSELLE' on the inscription at the top of Figure 2. From Port Arthur it was sent north on the Central Manchurian Railway to Harbin. From Harbin this postcard travelled east along the Chinese Eastern Railway to the Russian port of Vladivostok where a 2 Kopek stamp was affixed and cancelled with the postmark for 3rd July 1902 and index 9. The postcard was now duly stamped and could travel on its journey unhindered but would have to wait for the next train. An

interesting point to note is that this postcard travelled under the 2 Kopek Printed Matter rate instead of the more usual 4 Kopek postcard rate. Under UPU regulations, in force at this time, it stated that if there were five or fewer consecutive [handwritten] words of greeting on the picture side the postcard was deemed to be Printed Matter and not a postcard - hence the reason for its use at the cheaper rate. This regulation applied equally to both national and international mail.

On the next day, this postcard was sent on the mail train and had another Vladivostok postmark applied but this time with index 4 and dated 4th July 1902. It retraced its journey westward from Vladivostok to Harbin, and from there it was carried over the Trans-Siberian Railway crossing the Chinese/Russian border between Manchouli (last Chinese station before the Russian border) and Chita (first Russian station on Russian territory) on the original Trans-Siberian Railway. From Chita



the line ran to the eastern edge of Lake Baykal where, because the Trans-Baykal route had not yet been constructed, it crossed the lake by a special ferry that carried the whole of the train to Irkutsk on the other side where the train unloaded itself and was able to carry on along the Trans-Siberian Railway to St. Petersburg. At St. Petersburg the postcard was sent on the international route via Riga (Latvia), Memel (Lithuania), Warsaw (Poland), Berlin (Germany) and finally to Aachen (Germany). Aachen was the main distribution centre for all international mail destined for Europe and Middle East countries. From Aachen the postcard crossed the German/Belgian border and was put into the hands of the Belgian Post Office that duly delivered it to the addressee in its usual way. The postcard arrived at its destination on Friday 8th August 1902 making a total transit time of 24 days. (See the calculation reference in the following section).

#### **Other postal details**

What must be remembered is that up until the Revolution in 1917 the Russians still used the Julian calendar while the rest of the world had converted to the current Gregorian calendar. Because of this difference, the dates used during this time must have thirteen days added to the dates used on the Russian postmarks. Alternatively, the total number of days between the Russian postmarks and the receiving postmarks must have thirteen days subtracted. This will give the true length of time that the item of mail was in transit. Using this formula the true time taken by this postcard to complete its journey is 2nd July to

8th August = 37 days less 13 days giving 24 days in transit. This was a great saving in journey time over what the regular sea journey would have taken.

International mail coming out of China could have stamps from one of the foreign post offices operating within China except Chinese because China was not yet a member of the UPU. One exception to this rule was when the Chinese stamps were either cancelled by a foreign post office or were cancelled with a boxed 'I.P.O.' tie-print. Both indicated to the destination country that the correct postage had been paid to a UPU member country. In the early days only mail items stamped solely with Russian stamps were accepted for the Trans-Siberian Railway. Any item of mail with a mixture of non-Russian stamps or single stamps from any other country, including China, was sent by sea via Shanghai. Some years later this ruling was relaxed and mail bearing the stamps of any UPU country was accepted for the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Because Manchuria was on loan to the Russians, it used the regular Russian postage stamps of the time; those overprinted with the word 'KITAI' (China) were only issued to Russian post offices operating within China Proper.

The details of the Vladivostok postmarks found on this postcard are as follows: The 3rd July (index 9) was in use from March 1902 until August 1903; the postmark dated 4th July (index 4) was used between the years 1894 and 1904.

#### **Conclusion**

Even though postal history items that travelled on the Trans-Siberian Railway have a very interesting story to tell they are, nevertheless, inexpensive and plentiful. As with other philatelic endeavours, there are some postal history items from the Trans-Siberian Railway that are very expensive but most of them are perceived as cheap and cheerful and a fair collection can be accumulated for little money.

For the time under discussion, the cost of sending this 2 Kopek postcard is approximately 1 cent U.S. and one quarter of one British penny to travel over 8,000 miles.

Anyone thinking about starting a collection of Trans-Siberian Railway postal history will be pleased to learn that it is both interesting and relatively inexpensive. Most of the research needed to unearth the history behind an item may take a long time but ultimately it will prove its worth. 🌸

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**The main sources of information used for this article are as follows:**

***Road to Power* by Stephen G. Marks**

***The Japanese Post Offices in China and Manchuria* by John Mosher**

***Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad* by S. D. Tchilingirian and W. S. E. Stephen**

**The invaluable assistance of Dr. E. Casey FRS of the British Society of Russian Philately**

**Other details have been obtained from a variety of articles published in various philatelic journals and magazines in the public domain.**

# ORAPEX 2004 Revisited

By Doug Lingard

ORAPEX is one of Canada's national stamp exhibitions that is held each spring in Ottawa. Two of Ottawa's senior stamp Clubs, the RA Stamp Club and the Ottawa Philatelic Society, team up to put on the show. As chair of this year's event, I thought it would be useful to provide some observations on ORAPEX 2004 in case they might be helpful to those running other stamp shows.

Based on the results of this year's show, it would seem that the state of the hobby may be improving in the Ottawa area. Overall, it seemed that attendance was up slightly (we gave away about 25 more show programs than we did last year), there were more participants at this year's wine and cheese awards reception on Saturday night, we produced about 10% more of our fund raising #586 1¢ Macdonald precancel ORAPEX overprints and they all sold out by Sunday

morning, and most dealers indicated they had a good show. In fact, a few dealers mentioned that it was their best ORAPEX ever.

This fact seemed to be substantiated by a few visitors who complained to me that they could not find a vacant chair at their favourite dealer's table during Saturday morning and for part of Saturday afternoon. Several of these folks specifically mentioned Roy Houtby, who incidently had a double table at the show.

However, there were other positive signs at this year's show as well. ORAPEX 2004 had 32 competitive exhibits, compared to 24 last year. Although there were 8 additional competitive exhibits this year, these additional exhibits resulted in only 11 additional frames of exhibits. One of the



**Numerous local stamp clubs produce "show covers" to help defray costs associated with mounting their stamp shows. ORAPEX, the Ottawa-based stamp exhibition and bourse, goes a step further. Organizers produce imaginative (inverted) ORAPEX overprints on a low-denomination issue that seem to find favour with collectors.**

reasons for this small increase in overall frame usage was that there were 12 one-frame exhibits this year compared to only 4 last year. However, the most interesting thing about the exhibits was the number of visitors viewing them. During certain times on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon the aisles between the frames were full of people viewing the exhibits. In fact, Charles Verge mentioned to me on Sunday afternoon that he had never seen crowds like this viewing exhibits at previous ORAPEX shows.

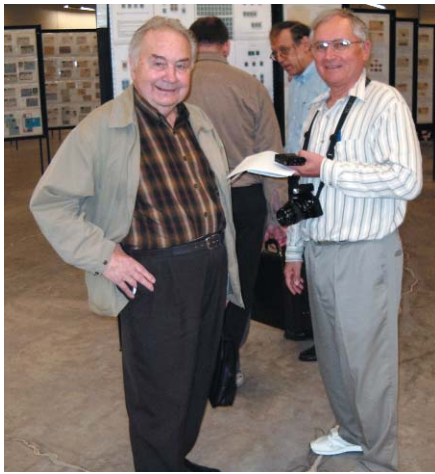
On Saturday the show committee handed out 100 questionnaires to 100 more or less randomly selected show visitors (they were not given to dealers or judges), to find out where they lived, if this was their first ORAPEX show, and how they found out about the show. Although only 30 visitors returned their questionnaires, the results of this small unscientific sample were quite interesting and may be of interest to others. We will probably poll a much larger sample next year.

Overall, 21 respondents lived in the Ottawa region and 9 lived out side of the Ottawa region. Visitors came from as far away as Perth,



**Members of the jury are organizing their notes in preparation for the critiquing session, left to right, are Richard K. Malott, Ottawa, Duncan H. Barber, Mississauga, ON, Stephen D. Schumann, Hayward, California, Jury Chairman James R. Taylor, Calgary, AB, Bruce Field, Greenfield Park, QC, Dr. Michael Peach, Bedford, NS, and Dr. J. Graham McCleave, Fredericton, NS.**

Courtesy: Tony Shaman.



**James E. Kraemer and your editor discussing an idea for a story that Jim has offered to pen for our journal.**

**Courtesy: Michael Peach.**

Australia. Surprisingly, for one third of the respondents (10 of the 30 responses), this was their first ORAPEX show. Of these 10 first-time attendees, 5 were from the Ottawa region and 5 were from outside of the Ottawa region. The show committee found it very encouraging that 5 of the 21 attendees from the Ottawa region were attending their first ORAPEX show and that this was the first ORAPEX show for 5 of the 9 attendees from outside of the Ottawa region. Hopefully, those 10 first-time attendees will be back next year.

The next question asked how did the respondents learn of ORAPEX. Although some questionnaires provided more than one response, it seems that *Canadian Stamp News* was the most important information provider about our show. The responses indicated that 11 attendees learned of ORAPEX as a resulting of reading about it in this publication. The following are the other ways attendees heard of the show. From a dealer attending the show (9); from Charles Verge's stamp column in the *Ottawa Citizen* (7); from the ORAPEX 2004 show cards advertising the show (5); from paid newspaper ads (3);



**Eight-year-old Julia Cappelli of Ottawa, a regular visitor to ORAPEX, looks over the "freebies" at the show's Youth Booth.**

**Courtesy: Michael Peach.**

and from other sources (6), which included friends, stamp clubs, exhibitors attending the show and BNAPS. Since the ORAPEX committee spends about \$1,500 on advertising the show in the local non-philatelic press, we will obviously have to review our advertising plan for next year, since only 3 attendees indicated they learned of the show through local newspaper ads. Also, each of these 3 individuals indicated on their questionnaires, that they learned of ORAPEX from another source of information about the show as well.

Hopefully, those involved in running stamp shows may find the above information useful. I would like to encourage other stamp show committees to also



**Nothing but serious faces here as exhibitors pay close attention to the remarks of the judging panel members.**

**Courtesy: Tony Shaman.**



**Ray Ireson, aka as "Raconteur" to readers of this magazine, poses beside his postal history exhibit of Colombia entitled "In Search of El Dorado".**

**Courtesy: Tony Shaman.**

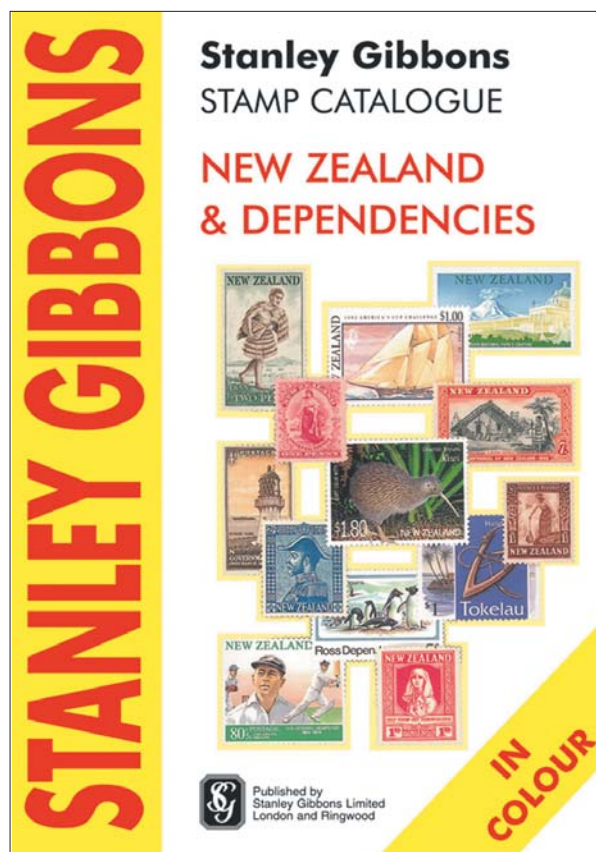
share their experiences through this journal, so we can identify any evolving trends that might impact our different shows. Based on this year's ORAPEX experience, it may be possible that a fair number of new collectors are attending major stamp shows for their first time; the popularity of one frame exhibits may be increasing; more collectors may be thinking of exhibiting which might explain why so many people were viewing this year's exhibits, and collectors may be becoming more active buyers than they were in the past. Do other shows support these findings, or do they show different trends we should all know about? 🍁

# Stamp Catalogue New Zealand & Dependencies

Having collected New Zealand stamps from an early age (I first exhibited NZ Health stamps in 1947), I was amazed to learn that Stanley Gibbons had never issued a single-country New Zealand catalogue as SG numbers are regularly used by dealers in New Zealand. Previously the SG British Commonwealth listing had included New Zealand. This latest publication covers all issues up to the Veteran Vehicles set of September 2003. It states on the back cover that "This is the first in a new range of self-contained catalogues listing and pricing the stamps of Commonwealth countries from SG1 to date". I look forward to further publications in this series.

My first impression was that it is very attractive but, in that awkward metric size that is becoming familiar to members of RPSNZ. The 54-full colour pages measure approximately 8¼ inches wide and 11¾ inches high. I much prefer a smaller format, but that is just a personal preference. I regularly use 3 other catalogues for New Zealand: *Auckland City Stamps "ACS"*, *Campbell Paterson "CP"*, and *Scott "Sc"*. This latest Stanley Gibbons catalogue "SG" has the fewest and the largest pages.

The information provided is much more detailed than found in *Scott* or the *Auckland City* catalogues: almost up to Campbell Paterson's standard. There is, however, a



problem with the illustrations, e.g., the so-called Four o'clock flaw is important in sorting the various printings of the Penny Universal; I would never recognize it from the illustration given. The pictures of stamps are all in colour but the shades are not nearly accurate.

	SG	Sc	CP	ACS
<b>2002 Christmas Issue Set of 6 sheet stamps</b>	<b>\$9.80</b>	<b>\$8.73</b>	<b>\$12.36</b>	<b>\$9.14</b>
<b>1996 Health sheet stamp the "Teddy Bear" variety</b>	<b>\$1,470.48</b>	<b>\$1,343.30</b>	<b>\$1,791.40</b>	<b>\$4,299.36</b>
<b>1988 Round Kiwi booklet of 6</b>	<b>\$26.96</b>	<b>\$18.81</b>	<b>\$31.35</b>	<b>\$26.87</b>
<b>1977 Queen Elizabeth II Souvenir Sheet of 5</b>	<b>\$1.59</b>	<b>\$1.68</b>	<b>\$2.24</b>	<b>\$2.69</b>
<b>1931 Health Issue Red Boy &amp; Blue Boy</b>	<b>\$367.62</b>	<b>\$201.50</b>	<b>\$403.06</b>	<b>\$394.11</b>

It is refreshing to find a catalogue of this stature that includes Ross Dependency and Tokelau Islands, the dependencies of New Zealand that are overlooked by many collectors and catalogue writers.

Since catalogues are often seen as just a price guide, I did some comparisons and prepared the following chart of prices for mint copies of some familiar New Zealand stamps, converting all values quoted into Canadian \$ using the rates quoted in the *Toronto Star* of 27 March 2004.

All catalogues used were the 2004 versions. Looking at only these 5 examples it is clear that Stanley Gibbons pricing is "in the ballpark" when compared to their competitors and I would feel comfortable using it as a guide when negotiating a price with a dealer.

A catalogue is more than a price guide: many of us use them to help us organize our collections. In this area SG is different from the other three. Semi-postals (Health stamps), Christmas and Air Mail stamps are all listed with the regular issues. They do have "Back-of-the-Book" section for stamp booklets, Express Delivery, Postage Due, Officials, and Postal Fiscal stamps, as well as a separate section for "Antarctic Expeditions" i.e., the King Edward VII Land and Victoria Land overprints. The General Philatelic Information at the front of the catalogue takes up eight pages and is worth the price as a mini-course in philately for any novice collector. It is lifted directly from their "*Part 1 (British Commonwealth) Catalogue*" and is applicable to any area of philately. Interesting to note that the stamps used to illustrate perforations condition and centering are British and Canadian. I wonder how this will be accepted in New Zealand.

In summary, the £12.95 U.K. Retail Price quoted on the cover (\$31.73 Cdn.) will scare off many potential users but it is a useful and interesting addition to any New Zealand specialist's library. I will most likely use the Tokelau listings most often as *Scott* is the only other source that I have for this dependency, and *Scott* lists Tokelau in volume 6 while New Zealand is in volume 4. It is a good first edition, I look forward to seeing future improvements, I know they can do it. ♣

**D.J. (Jim) Measures**

# VARIETIES

By "Napoleon"

## MAIDEN PLANTING: GERMANY ISSUED A TWO-STAMP SET, PLANTING CHARITY.



The 1995 *Michel* catalogue lists four printing varieties of the 6 mark + 4 mark blue and three of the 12 mark + 8 mark orange. The 1964/1965 edition of the catalogue, however, listed nine varieties of the blue stamp and ten of the higher denomination orange one. The 1996 second edition of the *Thomas Schantl Plattenfehler Katalog* has prices very similar to the 1995 *Michel* and lists seven blue varieties and ten orange ones. Your author has images available of one variety of each stamp. The variety on the 6 + 4 mark stamp is in position 33 and looks like a break in the maiden's arm. This lists for 10 marks mint hinged (MH) and 250 marks postally used. The normal stamp is 0.40 marks MH and 0.70 marks postally used. For the 12 + 8 mark orange, the variety is in position 40 and looks like a handkerchief being dropped from the maiden's left hand. The basic stamp is the same 0.40 marks MH and 0.70 marks used as the blue stamp. While the 1995 *Michel* no longer lists this variety, *Schantl* does, giving it a 60 mark value MH and 480 marks postally used. Values: dividing the variety value by the value of the ordinary stamp will create a multiple the reader can apply to prices from any other catalog. For example, if the ordinary stamp has a used price of 100 marks (or francs), and the variety has a used price of 350 marks (or francs), multiplying a *Scott* or *Unitrade* price for the used stamp by 3.5 will give an approximate value for the variety. ♣

As usual, color images are available to those who e-mail me with requests ([napoleon@voyager.net](mailto:napoleon@voyager.net)).

## THE PANAMA CANAL STORY

The Canal Zone study Group (CZSG) has produced a compact disk (CD) of Raymond Ireson's philatelic exhibit entitled "The Panama Canal Story." Raymond Ireson is a longtime member and director of our Society. This highly acclaimed eight-frame philatelic exhibit was displayed in the Court of Honor at the APS STAMPSHOW 2000 in Providence RI. In addition, the CD has a brief biography of the author, a preface and postscript.

The exhibit includes over 20 rare philatelic items including die proofs, specimens, rare letters from the 1840s-60, and other items. Included is a balloon post letter sent by De Lesseps during a siege of Paris by the Prussians in 1870. It is sprinkled throughout with little-known interesting facts about people and places. For example, it is well known that Gaugin lived on Taboga Island, but not that he worked on the canal. Johann W. von Goethe, the German poet and dramatist expressed a prophetic opinion in 1827 that the United States would be involved. Also, nearly lost in

the many tributes to the "opening" of the Panama Canal with the first commercial transit in 1914 is the fact that the formal proclamation of the opening was not declared until July 12, 1920 by President Wilson.

This CD is a radical departure from the norm for the CZSG, whose publications are usually in philatelic handbook format and restricted to Canal Zone stamps. Another novel feature is that this

is the first CZSG publication on a CD. This new medium permits high resolution colour reproductions. Rather than having "thumbnail" pictures that can be enlarged, entire pages are scanned in high resolution to allow any part of the page, stamp, cover, signatures, and so on to be enlarged to examine in detail. From the index, clicking on individual pages immediately accesses them. On each open page, the viewer can click forward, back, or return to the index, as well as click to the high-resolution image.

It is our fervent hope that people will find this an exciting way to view the material, and that they will learn much about the history of Panama and the Canal Zone, the philatelic evolution from stampless covers to modern stamps, as well as a format for preparing a successful exhibit.

Disks may be purchased from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC for the sum of \$10 plus \$1 P&H (\$1.60 Canada).



# PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005 EVENT MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Exhibition Management Pty Ltd will handle the event management for Pacific Explorer 2005.

Australia Post's Kate Jones, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Explorer 2005 Organising Committee and Australia Post's Philatelic Group, said the company had had extensive experience.

"Exhibition Management has worked closely with national industry associations in the staging and promotion of their events, and is Australia's largest independently owned exhibition-organising company," Ms Jones said.

It had organised Wine Australia, the Australian wine industry's highly successful consumer and trade tasting event, and Odmafair, the sell-out biennial trade show for the optical industry. Both events were held in Sydney.

"We are very excited at the prospect of becoming involved with

an event of such international standing," said Exhibition Management's managing director, Regine Vandenberg.

"We will provide expertise in logistics, operational and other venue-specific intricacies to the Philatelic Group and it will be a terrific opportunity to contribute to the event's success."

Pacific Explorer 2005 runs from 21 - 24 April 2005 at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

A sales presentation and floor plan and stand-holder application form will be distributed from 26 April 2004. Inquiries regarding sales stand rental can be addressed to Ms Vicki Cairns at EMPL. Email: [vicki@exhibitionmanagement.com](mailto:vicki@exhibitionmanagement.com) or (03) 9699 4699. Further information on Pacific Explorer 2005 is also available at [www.sydney2005.com.au](http://www.sydney2005.com.au).

**Media and industry enquiries:**

**Kate Jones**  
Executive Officer,  
Pacific Explorer 2005 Organising Committee  
(03) 9204 7707  
0408 121 990  
Email:  
[catherine.jones@auspost.com.au](mailto:catherine.jones@auspost.com.au)

**John MacDonnell,**  
Pacific Explorer 2005 Secretary-General  
Phone: +61 9725 7321  
Email:

[JohnMacDonnell@bigpond.com](mailto:JohnMacDonnell@bigpond.com)  
Further media information:  
[www.auspost.com.au/mediacentre](http://www.auspost.com.au/mediacentre)

**Canadian Commissioner**  
**Charles J.G. Verge**  
PO Box 2788 Station D  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5W8  
[verge@sympatico.ca](mailto:verge@sympatico.ca)

**Entries close: July 31, 2004**

## AGREEMENT REACHED

Postcomm today (10 February 2004) welcomed the agreement that will enable Royal Mail postmen to carry post on behalf of rival operator, UK Mail, for "the last mile."

The agreement marks an important step forward for competition in postal services. Under the arrangements, UK Mail will hand over pre-sorted mail to Royal Mail at inward mail centres, from where they will be processed for eventual delivery by Royal Mail postmen. Royal Mail will charge UK Mail a fee for each letter, ranging from 13p for mail weighing less than 60 grams to £3.75 for items weighing 2Kg.

Postcomm is satisfied that, based on reasonable assumptions, the prices agreed between the parties ought to generate a similar

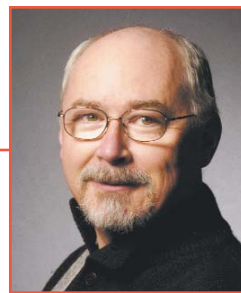
amount of revenue for Royal Mail as would have been the case under the proposals Postcomm had been planning to publish in December.

Postcomm chairman Nigel Stapleton said: "This is the first agreement of its kind and a landmark for competition in postal services in the UK. It enables UK Mail, a rival operator, to pay Royal Mail to use its nation-wide delivery network. It also sets a valuable benchmark for other customers and licensed operators who may wish to use Royal Mail's extensive network in a similar manner.

"It is far better that the parties involved have negotiated their own access arrangements rather than have the terms and conditions imposed by Postcomm.

Our determination document will not now be published, but instead we will shortly be producing a paper which will give guidance to other companies interested in access to Royal Mail's delivery network."

UK Mail originally asked Postcomm to determine the terms and conditions, including the price, of access to Royal Mail's network. However, on December 17, 2003, just before Postcomm was due to publish its determination, the two companies announced that they had re-opened negotiations and had signed heads of terms. At their request, Postcomm agreed to postpone publication to give them time to work out the finer details of the contract.



I am writing this message a few days before Alana and I leave for Halifax to attend the 76th convention of The RPSC. I very much look forward to it as it will give me an opportunity to meet old acquaintances, rediscover Halifax and visit family. A report of the convention is found elsewhere in this magazine. My annual report as President will be published in the next issue of *The CP*.

I need to thank Canada Post, once again, for helping us grow. In the first quarter of this year we had a recruitment ad in *Stamp Details*, Canada Post's house organ. It resulted in over two hundred new members for the Society. Thanks, Jim Phillips and the staff at Stamp Marketing, for making this possible.

*Canadian Stamp News (CSN)*, whose staff lays out and puts together this magazine every two months, is well known for having a stamp poll of the previous year's stamps. This poll is a little late this year because of a change in its format and approach. Some time ago, I informed Paul Winkler, President of Trajan Publications, the parent company of CSN, that I felt that the results of CSN's poll weren't indicative of the general public's view of Canadian stamps. I suggested that he consider giving it a wider audience and ensure that as many people as possible would have access to it. As a result, and with the cooperation of Canada Post, this year's poll is being distributed to tens of thousands of subscribers to CSN, *The CP*, *Stamp Details*, *Philatélie Québec*, and our respective Websites. I hope that these results will better reflect the views of a majority of collectors.

Thanks to Paul for buying into this exercise and to all the partners for going along. I invite you to vote as soon as the ballot appears in one of your magazines or on your computer screen. 🍁

J'écris ce message quelques jours avant qu'Alana et moi quittions Ottawa pour Halifax pour participer à la 76<sup>e</sup> Convention de La SRPC. Nous anticipons vraiment ce voyage: l'occasion de renouer des liens avec de vieux amis, redécouvrir Halifax et visiter la famille. Un rapport de la Convention se trouve ailleurs dans le magazine. Mon rapport annuel fera l'objet de mon message dans la prochaine édition *du PC*.

Je me dois de remercier Postes Canada, encore une fois, pour l'aide qu'elle nous apporte dans notre croissance. Dans le premier quart de cette année nous avons eu un encart de recrutement dans *En détail*, la publication de Postes Canada. Le résultat est que nous avons recruté plus de 200 nouveaux membres. Merci à Jim Phillips et le personnel du Marketing des produits philatéliques pour nous avoir aidé à atteindre ce chiffre important.

*Canadian Stamp News (CSN)*, dont le personnel réalise la production de ce magazine tous les deux mois, est reconnu pour son sondage sur les timbres-poste canadiens de l'année précédente. Ce sondage est un peu en retard cette année parce qu'il change d'orientation et de format. Il y a plusieurs mois, j'ai mentionné à Paul Winkler, PDG de Trajan Publications, la compagnie parente de CSN, que je ne pensais pas que les résultats du sondage reflétaient la vue du public en général sur les timbres-poste canadiens. J'ai suggéré qu'il considère élargir la base de la clientèle du sondage. En conséquence, et avec la participation de Postes Canada, le sondage de cette année sera distribué à des dizaines de milliers d'abonnés de CSN, *du PC*, *En détails*, *Philatélie Québec*, et nos sites web respectifs. J'espère que les résultats refléteront plus la vue de la majorité qu'ils le faisaient dans le passé.

Merci à Paul pour avoir accepté ma suggestion et aux partenaires pour avoir embarquer dans le jeu. Je vous enjoins donc à voter lorsque le bulletin de sondage apparaîtra dans votre boîte aux lettres sur votre écran d'ordinateur. 🍁



# MEMBERSHIP Report *Rapports de MEMBRES*

## NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

The following applications were received and are herewith published in accordance with the Constitution. If no adverse reports are received within 30 days of publication, applicants will be accepted into full membership. Any objections should be sent to the National Office, P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1. Les demandes d'adhésion ci-dessous ont été reçues et sont publiées en conformité avec la constitution. Si aucun commentaire n'est communiqué au Bureau national, (C.P. 929, Succursale Q, Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1) d'ici 30 jours, les adhérents seront acceptés comme membres.

(M) minor - activity guaranteed by parent or guardian / mineur - activités philatéliques garanties par un parent ou un tuteur.

## INDIVIDUAL / INDIVIDUEL

I-28155 Reg Sinclair  
 • INTERESTS: Canada, Newfoundland, Postal History Ontario  
 I-28156 Mohamad Aktar Sayeed  
 • INTERESTS: India, Ceylon, GB & Cape of Good Hope  
 I-28157 William Athan  
 I-28158 Richard Kassner  
 I-28159 Suzanne Wibe  
 I-28160 T.J. Low  
 I-28161 A. Ducharme  
 I-28162 Jacqueline Kielbek  
 I-28163 Bernard Clavel  
 I-28164 June Demoe  
 I-28165 Sam Haropp  
 I-28166 Andreas Giannakopoulos  
 I-28167 Francis Cléroux  
 I-28168 Clement Leclerc  
 I-28169 Gary Holick  
 I-28170 George Stephenson  
 I-28171 Denise Goulet  
 I-28172 Neil Sutherland

I-28173 Rick Brown  
 • INTERESTS: BNA, Revnue, Canada (pre-1950)  
 Stampless envelopes  
 I-28174 Stephen Willen  
 I-28175 N.W. Chamberlain  
 I-28176 Gunnar Zetterman  
 I-28177 George Faerber  
 I-28178 D.C. Green  
 I-28179 Thomas Delgaty  
 I-28180 Ann Trumbull  
 I-28181 Robin Stubbs  
 I-28182 Stephen Gallikor  
 I-28183 Jean-Marie Poirier  
 I-28184 Patrick Leveque  
 I-28185 Roelof Tuininga  
 I-28188 M. Jean Campbell  
 I-28189 Postal History Foundation  
 I-28191 David Stein  
 • INTERESTS: Canada, US, GB, France World Mint  
 - Canada, UN, Israels

I-28192 Lorraine Rasmussen  
 • INTERESTS: Hechler Covers  
 I-28194 Zaharia Solomon  
 I-28195 Valentine Day  
 I-28196 Humza Elahi  
 I-28197 Jocelyn Richard  
 I-28198 Gordon Payne  
 I-28199 Denzil Fernandes  
 I-28200 Jeffrey Parks  
 I-28201 Pierre St. Onge  
 I-28202 Sandra Postnikoff  
 I-28203 Audrey Cote-St-Onge  
 I-28204 Richard Church  
 I-28206 Guy Courtois  
 I-28207 Noel Puype  
 I-28208 Christine Demers  
 I-28209 Clement Dostie

## PHILATELIST SUBSCRIPTION

S - Stan Sampson

## RESIGNED / DÉMISSIONNAIRES

• Fleming, Kelly-Lynn (I-27287) • Harrison, Catharine (I-26800) • Keeler, William C. (I-26230) • Kutz, Kenneth J. (I-21862) • Kvemshagen, Delbert O. (I-22514)  
 • Reimer, Vic (I-27522) • Wheeler, Frank M. (I-27797)

## DECEASED / NÉCROLOGIE

• Read, D. C. (I-21470) Charlottetown, PE • Smellie, R. Gary (I-24188) Aurora, ON • Vanderlinde, Fredric (L-15905) Raleigh, USA

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The "Saints" (Lucia, Helena Vincent, Kitts), Br. Guiana

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# COMING EVENTS / CALENDRIER

To have your event listed in this section of The Canadian Philatelist, please send all details to The RPSC National Office, P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1. Details may be faxed to (416) 979-1144 or e-mail to info@rpsc.org. Information will not be accepted by telephone. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE RPSC.

Pour que votre événement soit listé dans cette section du Philatéliste canadien veuillez envoyer tous les détails au Bureau national de la SRPC, C.P. 929, Succ. 'Q', Toronto, ON M4T 2P1. Les détails peuvent être faxés au (416) 979-1144 ou par poste-électronique à info@rpsc.org. Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC.

## REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

**August 7th, 2004:** FENPEX 20 - The Annual show of the Fenelon Stamp Club will be held at the Fenelon Falls Seniors Club, 105 Lindsay St. Hours 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dealers and door prizes. Free admission and parking. For more information call Margaret Allen, 705 887-5386.

**Aug. 21, 2004:** Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club 30th Coin & Stamp Show on Saturday, August 21, 2004 in Collingwood, Ontario. It is at the Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota St., Coll'wood with ample free parking, Free Admission, Snack Bar on premises and welcome mat out for everyone. Horst A Bolik, Secretary, Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club - Chapter 168 RPSC.

**Sept. 25, 2004:** LAMPEX 2004 - The Stamp Showing and Bourse will be held at the Pt. Edward Optimist Community Hall, 210 Monk Street, Pt. Edward, Ontario on Saturday, September 25, 2004 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: David Burwell at (519) 337-9104. Follow the signs.

**October 15-17, 2004:** FALL STAMPEX 04 at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON. Sponsored in partnership by the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association and the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance. Exhibits, seminars, and a large dealer bourse with dealers from Canada and the United States. Free admission and free door prize draws for both kids and adults. Hours Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Further information please email: secretary@csdaonline.com.

## NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

**June 11-13, 2004:** PIPEX 2004. The Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs' show will be held in Vernon, BC, Canada.

**Sept. 3-5, 2004:** BNAPEX 2004, the annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society, will be held at the Hunt Club in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. (with BALPEX). Details TBA.

**Oct. 29-31, 2004:** BAYPEX 2004 - Napier or Hastings, New Zealand.

**May 27-29, 2005:** ROYAL \*2004\* ROYALE: The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's 77th Annual exhibition and convention will be held in London, ON. Further details yet to come. Dates and locations for upcoming years:

2006, Calgary, Alberta, September 29 - October 1

2007, Toronto, Ontario.

2008, Québec City, Québec.

2009, St. Catharines, Ontario.

2010, Available/disponible.

2011, Montréal, Québec.

**July 2005:** New Zealand 2005 National Stamp Show - North Shore City, New Zealand.

**Sept. 2-4, 2005:** BNAPEX 2005, the annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society, will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Details TBA.

**Nov. 2-5, 2006:** KIWIPEX 2006 - Christchurch, New Zealand.

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

**Aug. 12-22, 2004:** OLYMPHILEX 2004 to be held in Athens, Greece in conjunction with the Olympic Games. Canadian Commissioner: Frank Alusio, FRPSC, 331 Rathburn Rd., Toronto, ON M9B 2L9. Tel.: (416) 621-8232 or e-mail: falusio@sympatico.ca.

**Aug. 28-Sept. 01, 2004:** Singapore 2004. This is the first World Stamp Championship held under the FIP auspices. The Canadian Commissioner is Mr. Sammy Chiu, who can be contacted at P.O. Box 1108, Station B, Willowdale, ON, M2K 3A2; tel. (416) 733-2388, fax (416) 733-8813, e-mail: chiusam@hotmail.com.

**April 21-24, 2005:** Pacific Explorer 2005 World Stamp Expo, Sydney, Australia. Canadian Commissioner: Charles J.G. Verge, P.O. Box 2788, Station "D", Ottawa, ON K1P 5W8. Tel.: (613) 738-2770; Fax: (613) 738-7863; e-mail:verge@sympatico.ca. Deadline for entries is July 31, 2004.

# ADVERTISING DEADLINE

for the next issue of The Canadian Philatelist is July 7, 2004

# LA DATE LIMITE

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# BENIN - ILLEGAL POSTAGE STAMP ISSUES

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of BENIN asks me to inform you of the following:

"The postal administration of Benin has been informed of the issue and sale of a considerable number of illegal postage stamps bearing the name of the "Republic of Benin" or "Benin". These products are of an offensive nature and are distributed on the philatelic market by unauthorized private companies and dealers. This amounts to a serious attack on the reputation and moral integrity of the Republic of Benin, as well as being a flagrant violation of its national legislation on the production of postage stamps and of article 6 of the Universal Postal Convention.

"These postage stamps appear on numerous websites and in publications promoting philately in general. The deceitful advertisements for these stamps even affirm that: "The origin of these stamps may be questionable and they may be listed as illegals. We therefore suggest that you buy them only because you like them. We offer them because they are on the market." These words inscribed on the stamps by these authors indicate their illegal nature.

"Moreover, these companies, as forgery specialists, even use the logos of various organizations which would be entitled to take legal action for abuse of their intellectual property.

"The proliferation of illegal stamps has reached uncontrollable levels and several countries, particularly in Africa, continue to be afflicted by this phenomenon even though they have denounced it.

"In this connection, the postal administration of Benin is incensed by and utterly condemns the existence of such a network. It therefore asks you to invite all Universal Postal Union member countries and partners to do everything possible to identify, locate and denounce the perpetrators of this economic and moral crime.

"Furthermore, it once again appeals to all parties to redouble their efforts and vigilance regarding illegal stamps that may be produced, disseminated and sold on their territory. To eradicate this scourge, it firmly counts on the initiatives of the Universal Postal Union, the Pan African Postal Union and the World Association for the Development of Philately.

"In conclusion, the postal administration of Benin wishes to take this opportunity to provide all UPU member countries with the address of its philatelic bureau, the only body authorized to contact philatelists worldwide:

**Bureau philatélique du Bénin**  
**Attention: Mr. TEOU O. Joseph**  
**BP 5959 - DSPF/OPT**  
**COTONOU**  
**BENIN**  
**E-mail: jostheou@yahoo.fr**

"In addition, the postal administration of Benin is also prepared to contact its diplomatic missions with a view to more rigorous monitoring at philatelic exhibitions, and reserves the right to increase cooperation with Interpol in this fight against illegal issues.

"The protection of the postage stamps issued in 2003 in compliance with WNS standards took effect in our country in November 2003."

A partial list of the illegal postage stamps identified to date is annexed.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**K J S McKEOWN**  
**Director of Markets**

## ANNEX

Illegal postage stamp issues produced in the name of the Republic of Benin (to facilitate their identification, these stamps have been classified by theme) (for illegal postage stamps found with mention of the years 2002 and 2003)

### Fairy tales, cartoons

One set of four individual postage stamps, each depicting a scene from the cartoon "Winnie the Pooh". Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

One set of three individual postage stamps, each depicting a scene from a different tale, "Puss in Boots", "A Thousand and One Nights" and "Mowgli". Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

One set of fifteen miniature sheets (eleven vertical and four horizontal), each depicting a scene from a popular tale in the background, namely: The Owl and the Pussycat, Pinocchio, Little Red Riding Hood and The Ugly Duckling. Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting a different scene from the same tale, and each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is

inscribed "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet depicts various "Walt Disney" characters and "Elvis Presley". All but three of the miniature sheets feature the words in English "75th Birthday of Mickey Mouse", either at the top or bottom.

One set of three horizontal miniature sheets, each containing nine postage stamps and inscribed in English "Looney Tunes". Each stamp depicts a different cartoon scene featuring characters such as "Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck, Wile E. Coyote, Road Runner, The Skunks, The Tasmanian Devil and Tweety and Sylvestre". The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of these cartoons on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, with the words at the top in French "LES CONTES" ("TALES") and "HILDEBRANDT" at the bottom. Each stamp features a different scene from the tales in question. Each stamp has a value of 200f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of these tales on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, inscribed at the top in English "SPIRITED AWAY" and with Asian characters at the bottom. Each stamp depicts a different scene from Miyazaki's Japanese tale. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 200f, 300f, 300f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of this tale on the margins of the miniature sheet.

## **Fauna**

Various domestic, wild and endangered animals, sea creatures, birds and winged animals, and penguins

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which supposedly depicts an endangered animal. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is also inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and heads of various animals are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two miniature sheets, each of which features an enlarged animal in the background and contains a postage stamp featuring a different species. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f,

the name of the species and "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet also bears the "Scouts" logo.

One horizontal miniature sheet depicting a polar bear in its environment in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different Arctic species, alternating between a polar bear and an owl. The miniature sheet is inscribed in the top right in French "Les animaux de l'Arctique" ("Arctic animals").

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of six postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of wild cat. The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in French "LES FÉLINS" ("FELINES"). Each stamp has a value of 200f, is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and also bears the name of the species and the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of a wildcat are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet featuring three domestic cats in the background and containing a set of six postage stamps. Each stamp features a different species of cat, is inscribed with a value of 100 FCFA, the year 2003 and the "Scouts" and "Rotary" logos.

One vertical miniature sheet depicting three domestic cats in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different species of cat. The miniature sheet is inscribed vertically on the left in French "Les chats" ("Cats").

Three horizontal miniature sheets, each containing a set of nine postage stamps, and each depicting a different species of cheetah, gorilla, leopard and panther. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of the respective animal are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of horse. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of horses are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet. ♣

# LETTERS / LETTRES

(Continued on next page)

Dear Sir,

Congratulations Mr. Frank Alusio for taking the time to try to improve judging in The RPSC. The fact that you have the title of FRPSC lends more weight than I could ever muster to suggest the changes you have written about. I have exhibited at National shows for the last seven years, and doubt if I will continue.

My RCAF and CAF career spanned 45 years, six of them as an instructor in the Aircraft trades school. I gave hundreds of on job practical, on job tests, as well as written tests using a score sheet to tabulate results. I was instructed;

NEVER do you put down or degrade a student's efforts,

NEVER do you dwell exclusively on negative observations,

NEVER do you sum up results in three or four vague sentences.

IF you correct some action, you use positive attitudes not negative.

IF you have to correct some action, following that, you give credit in equal amounts for correct positive results.

To do otherwise is to demean your student, yourself, and show you are a lesser man than you think you are no matter what your experience, social standing, education or wealth may be.

My instructor duties were monitored at times unknown to me every four months to ensure I complied with required standards in all areas. My efforts earned me a promotion.

I exhibited in Vancouver and received a silver-bronze award. Because I was not there in person I received no critique.

Several exhibits in Edmonton I could not attend, so received nothing. The critiques I attended ran as follows. "Good start, expand the exhibit, add more items."

My critique for my 2004 exhibit started with this remark, "You have a long way to go." Then "Expand the exhibit, you have a good start." Several other negative remarks followed.

Mr. Alusio has called for a score card. I agree. The present system is

not good and is a poor reflection on RPSC judging. I want to have a record of where I must improve and reasons why I lost points, not some vague exhortation to expand the exhibit.

Being a judge requires dedication, time, and an ability to change practices and attitudes. Do away with ideas such as, we always do it this way, why should we change. If you accept the job do it right with no reservation of any sort. Judges should be monitored to determine if they are fit to judge. Some are not.

I as an exhibitor demand the same exceptional judging standards in all areas, as you demand of my exhibit. RPSC directors and judges should think about the Red Green show where the man's prayer is repeated at the end of the show.

*"I am a man and I can change, if I have to."*

**J.C. Rogers, CD  
Saskatoon, SK**

Dear Editor,

In *The Canadian Philatelist* March/April 2004 Vol.55 No.2 there was an article "Gold Coast Victorian Keyplates" by Peter Newroth, page 87.

The author pointed out that "Long usage of Gold Coast Key Plate I and the even more easily damaged duty plates created progressive and constant varieties despite the high standards and careful work of the printers De La Rue. Damage to raised plates surfaces (which transfer ink to paper during printing) shows on

stamps as white space, or distortion of printed lines or letters"

I have a five-cent Jubilee (*Unitrade* #54) that has traces of plate damage or wear on several places of the



**Five-cent Jubilee stamp that shows traces of plate damage.**

stamp. I first noticed this in the words five cents. Did the American Bank Note Company use the same method to print this set of stamps as De La Rue, using Key plates for the main part of the stamp and duty plates for the values?

I am a late comer to The Royal Philatelic Society. Perhaps this subject has been discussed in past editions of *The Canadian Philatelist*.

Regards,  
**Bruce Holmes**  
(member #I-26922)  
3170 Joseph Howe Drive #7  
Halifax, NS B3L 4G1



# EXCHANGES / DEMANDES D'ÉCHANGE

I can provide stamps of the USSR and other countries on any topic. Also FDCs with cancellations on numerous topics. Covers with cancellations of ships and atomic-powered ice breakers of the Murmansk Shipping Co., Polar stations,

both Arctic and Antarctic, Expeditions to Arctic and Antarctic regions, and "Cosmos".

In exchange I would like high quality, mint stamps in full sets on any of the following topics:

Marine Life, W.W.F., Apollo 11, Soyuz-Apollo A.S.T.P., and Halley's Comet-1986.

**Andrey Aphonin,**  
P.O. Box 4748,  
183038, Murmansk-38,  
Russia.

## LETTERS / LETTRES (continued from previous page)

Dear Editor,

In *The Canadian Philatelist* March/April 2004 Vol.55 No.2 there was an article "Large and Small Queen Stamp Bisects" by George B. Arfken, page 92.

The four illustrations of covers in this article all display bisect stamps that are cut on the diagonal from bottom right to top left. All have the bottom left of the stamp allowing the value to be visible. What happened to the top right half of the stamp without the value? I do not recall seeing the top of a bisect stamp without the value. Do covers exist with a bisect stamp without the value shown?

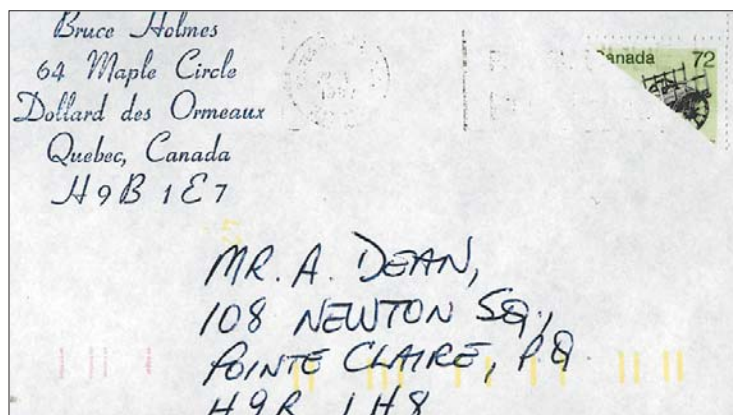
On May 22, 1987, I bisected a 72-cent stamp (*Unitrade* #1083) showing a hand-drawn cart from the Queen Elizabeth II, additional Heritage Artifacts issued on May 6, 1987. In this instance I also cut on the diagonal from bottom right to top left. However, I used the top right of the stamp to allow the 72-cent value to be visible, as the postal rate was 36 cents. It passed through the mail. I enclosed the bottom left of the stamp with my letter, which did not include the value of 72 cents.

On June 12, 1987, my correspondent used the bottom left of the bisected stamp that did not have a value with his reply. It almost passed through the mail. The envelope and bisected stamp were machine canceled. During the coding operation, which normally appears as coloured bars on the bottom of the envelope it was stopped. It was returned to my correspondent with a Canada Post

Corporation Return to sender label with insufficient postage highlighted.

My above experience prompted my questions about Large and Small Queen bisects.

Regards,  
**Bruce Holmes**  
(member # I-26922)  
3170 Joseph Howe Drive #7  
Halifax, NS B3L 4G1



Examples showing the use of the bisected 72¢ stamp, one of which passed through, and the other was returned to sender.

# APS Summer Session

By Peter Butler

"Professor, I need a short history and geography lesson! Province of Canada, Dominion of Canada... HELP!" Thus began the first day's session of Canada and British North America, one of five major courses offered at the June 2003 APS Summer Seminar on philately in State College PA. For the first time in the 25 year history of this program, a Canadian was invited to present one of the courses. It was also the first time that the topic of Canadian philately had been presented as a choice to the participants.

Canada's Ian Kimmerly was selected to present the course. By the end of the week, people in the group had expressed their gratitude, respect, and appreciation to Ian for a very profitable and enjoyable time together. The classroom setting was informal with hands-on demonstrations and lecture-discussion sessions, but the term 'professor' kept cropping up, which was more an indication of the profound admiration the students had for their teacher than the formal term associated with higher learning.

I had signed up for the Canadian course the day after it was announced last January. I think it is important to share with *The Canadian Philatelist* readers the background to this story and the events that took place in June that made this seminar such a delightful philatelic experience for me.

I have been attending these courses every June for the past four years. It is the most significant learning opportunity in stamp collecting that I experience each year. What could be more stimulating, more rewarding, and more enjoyable than spending five days totally immersed in my hobby with people of similar interests. I have made many friends at these seminars. Can you believe that my wife, Susan, accompanies me? We enjoy the many social times together that are part of the program. And as one of several "Stampless Others," Susan is off on excursions each day while I attend the course.

But I digress. It was at the 2002 session in a discussion about Canadian and American collectors that Kim Kowalchuk, APS's Director of

Education, shared some statistics. Kim told us from APS surveys that 40% of American collectors also collect Canada. In fact, for Americans, Canada is the most popular country to collect after the USA. For me, that raised some questions. Had there ever been a Canadian topic presented at the summer seminars? If Canada ranked second in popularity for collectors, would not a Canadian topic at the seminar be a good idea? And how might we check out the interest in such an offering?

To weigh student interest, we decided to seek their input on the Evaluation Form that is traditionally distributed toward the end of the course. I was excited by the possibility of a Canadian content course so I eagerly awaited the



**The Canada & British North America group, Ian centre front, with the tie! and me, on the left, middle row. A few others were missing.**

results that Ian promised to share with me in September. Kimmerly also attended the seminar in 2002 and we spent some time discussing people we knew back in Canada who might be interested in such an opportunity. In September Ian called to say the results for a Canadian course were very positive. By Christmas APS had selected Ian to lead the course.

The rest is history. With a daily PowerPoint presentation, Ian shared his vast knowledge of Canadian stamps. Our class schedule provided ample opportunities for us to share our own

knowledge and to ask Ian for further explanations. His answers were always informative and respectful of where every collector was on the "learning curve", from beginner to advanced. The hours flew by: over 16 of them in the four days of classes. The intense sessions were comparable to any night-school course that I have ever taken, and possibly more rewarding too.

For readers who have not heard of the APS Summer Seminars, let me tell you a little about the program. You may know that State College, Pennsylvania, is the home of the famous Pennsylvania State University and the great Nittany Lions football team. It has also been the home of the American Philatelic Society since 1945 although that will change next June as the Society moves to its new home in nearby Bellfonte. The area affectionately known as Happy Valley is in mid-Pennsylvania, in the heart of Nittany Valley, a six-hour drive from Toronto.

The seminar is held in a local hotel and approximately 80 to 100 delegates arrive Sunday evening to start bright and early the next day. Each day begins with a general session for all registrants, with one or two speakers leading the discussions. This is followed by the daily session of your selected topic for three-and-a-half hours before and after lunch. This past June's topics were Canada and British North America, Advanced Revenues, Collecting World-Wide Postal Stationery, Detecting Fakes, Forgeries and Altered Stamps, and US Coils. Later in the afternoons, students may use their free time to visit the APS building to peruse the sales circuit books; do research in the American Philatelic Library; visit Subway Stamp Shop in nearby Altoona or tour the renovated Match Factory, the new home of the American Philatelic Center; attend workshops on such topics as exhibiting, and introduction to the expertizing services of APS, stamp programs in the schools, or valuing and insuring collections.

For those who wish a break from stamps, there are organized recreational events such as tennis and golf. And if that's not enough, there are after-dinner programs including an evening auction,

informal trading, buying, and selling sessions, and guest speakers. The seminar concludes on the Friday morning with an optional breakfast to meet with staff of the APS for a Q&A session. It is an intense five days but a stimulating and satisfying experience. For me, it is truly a marvelous opportunity to immerse myself in philately with great company – people who are enthusiastic about all facets of the hobby.

Usually, a handful of Canadians venture to APS headquarters every June. We are always welcomed warmly and made to feel at home. Even though we are from Canada, we are often geographically closer to State College than many of the American delegates.



Ian Kimmerly

While attending the Summer Seminars over the past four years, a question keeps returning to my mind: Why couldn't our national organization offer a similar experience for philatelists in Canada? There are probably many reasons why it isn't feasible, but there are also many reasons why it could be a creative, innovative and exciting proposal that The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada could consider. I am not interested in copying a successful program from south of the border, but I am interested in investigating the possibility of bringing collectors together for

some kind of course, some kind of unique philatelic experience. We have the expertise and I'm sure we have the interest. Are there any dreamers out there of a similar persuasion? Is there anyone on The RPSC Board of Directors that would rally interest? Would the editor of *The Canadian Philatelist* entertain a proposal from a number of stamp clubs to get the ball rolling?

There are those who make things happen.  
There are those who watch things happen.  
There are those who say, "What happened?"

For Canadian philatelists, the time has come to make things happen. What do you say? ♣

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*Since penning this article, Mr. Butler was elected to the board of directors of our Society. He now has the opportunity to initiate and work towards the ideas he outlines above. I am confident that our members, and the philatelic community as a whole, will support his efforts.*



Do today's postal administrations print too many stamps? More importantly for collectors of Canadian stamps, does Canada Post follow an overgenerous new-issue policy?

These are not mere rhetorical questions. Too many issues, whatever the specific number may be, and collectors will ignore them. Too few, and collectors will lose interest as happens when collectors hit that brick wall that most have experienced when they can no longer add wanted items to their collections because of price or simply because the material is not available. When that happens, most give up.

Having said that, a dearth of new issues has not been the case in recent years. Therefore, if Canada Post does not release too few issues, does it issue too many? It may surprise readers that the answer depends on who you ask.

Not long ago, I was in a line-up at a neighbourhood postal outlet to mail a parcel and struck up a conversation with a fellow customer who was perusing the new issues in a glass display case. I asked him if he was a collector, to which he replied in the negative. He added that he liked using the "big, colourful stamps" because they look more attractive than the "small stamps with the Canadian flag."

Based on the comments of this non-collector, Canada Post should issue a greater variety of commemorative stamps for the reason that if this chap finds them appealing, other non-collectors may share his opinion. Admittedly, that still begs the question of how many new issues per year is too many.

For collectors intent on buying every new release, perhaps including a set of plate blocks, souvenir sheets, or uncut press sheets, Canada Post's new issue policy may seem excessive. But for non-collectors merely looking for eye-appealing postage, or for thematic collectors interested in adding to their space collection, for instance, it may well fall short.

Each year, Canada Post receives hundreds of suggestions for new issues but only a small percentage of them make the cut. Of the suggestions that are finally chosen to become stamps, only people with an interest in those stamps will buy them. If too many issues are produced, they will remain unsold. It is the marketplace that will ultimately determine the number issued.

Les administrations postales actuelles impriment-elles trop de timbres? Plus important encore, pour les collectionneurs de timbres canadiens, la politique d'émission de nouveaux timbres de Postes Canada est-elle trop prodigue?

Ce ne sont pas là que de simples questions rhétoriques! Si les émissions sont trop nombreuses, peu importe la quantité, les collectionneurs les boudent. Si elles sont trop faibles, l'intérêt se dissipera comme cela arrive lorsque, beaucoup en ont fait l'expérience, on se trouve dans un cul-de-sac parce qu'on ne peut ajouter les éléments souhaités à sa collection faute de disponibilité ou parce que les prix sont trop élevés. Plusieurs alors abandonnent.

Cela dit, il n'y a pas eu pénurie de nouvelles émissions ces dernières années. Si Postes Canada n'émet pas trop peu de nouveaux timbres, en émet-elle trop? Les lecteurs seront peut-être étonnés d'apprendre que la réponse dépend de l'interlocuteur à qui l'on s'adresse.

Il n'y a pas longtemps, alors que je faisais la file au comptoir du voisinage pour poster un colis, j'ai engagé la conversation avec un homme qui examinait les nouveaux timbres en vitrine. Quand je lui ai demandé s'il était philatéliste, il a répondu par la négative. Puis, il a ajouté qu'il aimait utiliser les « gros timbres colorés », car ils sont plus beaux que les « petits avec le drapeau canadien ».

Si on en croit le commentaire de ce non-philatéliste, Postes Canada devrait émettre une plus grande variété de timbres commémoratifs pour la simple raison que si monsieur les trouve attrayants, d'autres partagent sans doute son avis. Il faut cependant admettre que la question de savoir quelle quantité représente un trop grand nombre d'émissions par année demeure entière.

Pour les collectionneurs qui aimeraient se procurer toutes les nouveautés, peut-être un ensemble de planches, des feuilles souvenir, ou des feuilles non coupées, Postes Canada peut sembler trop produire. Tandis que pour les non-collectionneurs qui ne cherchent qu'un joli timbre, ou pour les collectionneurs de thématiques qui veulent grossir leur collection, cela ne suffit peut-être pas.

Chaque année, Postes Canada reçoit des centaines de suggestions pour de nouvelles émissions, mais la majorité d'entre elles ne sont pas retenues. Les timbres qui finalement en ressortent seront achetés seulement par

Of greater concern to organized philately than deciding on an ideal number of new stamps issued are the numerous emissions of illegal stamps coming on the market.

*The Canadian Philatelist* has probably not done enough in the past to publicize these illegally issued stamps that have absolutely no value other than to enrich the pockets of the unconscionable individuals who flood the philatelic markets with their nefarious wares.

In an effort to shed a little more light on illegal issues, we have printed one of the typical lists that we, regrettably, receive all too frequently from the Universal Postal Union. When it comes to buying stamps, caveat emptor – let the buyer beware – bears repeating.

Philately is a great hobby that, if pursued with common sense, combined with a dollop of good judgement, can offer a lifetime of enjoyment and an enriching experience.

In this issue we publish a number of articles written by long-time philatelists who have made stamp collecting an integral part of their lives. Richard Lamb, whose name is undoubtedly known to the majority of our readers, shares with us some fascinating stories about the Map stamp gained from first-hand involvement with some of our hobby's most colourful characters from the past.

Ray Ireson has been a faithful contributor for some time, writing under the pseudonym "Raconteur". Ray penned the all-too-quickly-ended series of articles, published over a period of eleven issues, that brought the Pitcairn Island saga back to life. In this issue, he takes us to Colombia, South America, where the Spanish Conquistadors failed to find the fabled hoards of gold but where Ray is searching for a different kind of El Dorado.

The year 2003 marked the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and the Post Office in Great Britain marked the occasion with a number of outstanding philatelic items. Joseph Monteiro tells us about them. And starting its long journey on the other side of the globe in Port Arthur, China, Ken Lewis tells us about a postcard's 8,000-mile long trip ending in Belgium – all for one penny.

Stories from the distant past seem enveloped in their own fascination. And someday, possibly, some of the stamps now churned out by the millions by postal administrations around the globe may have their own tales to tell. Perhaps as collectors we should applaud the release of legitimate new issues rather than condemn them and be vigilant about the illegal issues that do nothing but undermine our great hobby. ❁

les gens pour qui ils sont intéressants. S'il y en a trop, ils ne se vendront pas. En fin de compte, c'est le marché qui aura le dernier mot sur la quantité à émettre.

Mais le monde de la philatélie a des préoccupations beaucoup plus importantes que de décider du nombre idéal de timbres à émettre, par exemple; les nombreuses contrefaçons qui font leur apparition.

Par le passé, *Le Philatéliste canadien* n'a sans doute pas fait assez d'efforts pour mettre sur la sellette les timbres contrefaits, qui n'ont pour seule valeur que de grossir le portefeuille d'individus sans conscience qui inondent le marché de leur infâme marchandise.

Dans un effort pour faire la lumière sur le problème, nous avons publié l'une des listes typiques que nous recevons, hélas trop souvent, de l'Union postale universelle. Lorsqu'il s'agit d'achat de timbres, caveat emptor ^ au client de prendre garde ^ mérite d'être répété.

La philatélie est un passe-temps merveilleux qui, pratiqué avec bon sens et un peu de jugement, peut procurer du plaisir et une expérience enrichissante la vie durant.

Dans le présent numéro, nous avons publié bon nombre d'articles écrits par des philatélistes de longue date qui ont fait de la collection une partie intégrante de leur vie. Richard Lamb, un nom sans nul doute connu de la majorité de nos lecteurs, partage avec nous des histoires fascinantes au sujet du timbre de Noël de 1898 qu'il a acquis par son engagement de première main auprès de personnalités philatéliques d'autrefois des plus colorées.

Depuis quelque temps, Ray Ireson écrit assidûment sous le pseudonyme « Raconteur ». Il a signé pendant onze mois la trop courte série qui nous a fait revivre la saga de l'île de Pitcairn. Cette fois, il nous amène en Colombie, en Amérique du Sud, où les conquistadors espagnols n'ont pas trouvé les légendaires trésors, mais où il espère découvrir un autre genre d'El Dorado.

L'année 2003 a marqué le cinquantième anniversaire de l'accession au trône de la reine Élisabeth II. La Grande-Bretagne a souligné l'occasion par un nombre impressionnant d'articles de philatélie. C'est Joseph Monteiro qui nous en parle. Le récit de Ken Lewis commence à l'autre bout du monde où Port Arthur, en Chine, est le point de départ du long voyage de 8 000 milles (env. 12 880 Km) d'une carte postale qui s'est rendue en Belgique ^ pour seulement un penny.

Les histoires du temps jadis semblent revêtues de leur fascination propre. Un jour, sans doute, certains timbres, maintenant pondus à la tonne par les administrations postales de par le monde, auront peut-être leur propre histoire à raconter. En tant que philatélistes, nous devrions applaudir l'émission légale de nouveaux timbres plutôt que de la condamner et être aux aguets pour repérer les contrefaçons qui ne font que miner notre merveilleux passe-temps. ❁

# CLASSIFIEDS / ANNONCES CLASSÉES

## APPROVALS / APPROVATION

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Editor / Rédacteur, Tony Shaman, FRPSC, PO Box 43103, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9  
[shaman@smokesignal.net](mailto:shaman@smokesignal.net)  
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