

# PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance



Volume VI • No. 2 • Whole No. 22 • Winter 2007

ISSN 1718-2387

## Two GTAPA Club Members Inducted as Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada



*Alan Hanks*



*Bob Thorne*

The highest honour in Canadian philately has been given to Alan Hanks of the North Toronto Stamp Club and Bob Thorne of the Bramalea Stamp Club. At the awards dinner for ROYAL\*2007, they were invited to sign the roll of Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. We applaud these gentlemen for this accomplishment.

« « « » » »

## Scouts on Stamps International Becomes Our 12<sup>th</sup> Member!

We are pleased to announce the addition of The Maple Leaf Chapter of Scouts on Stamps International as the 12<sup>th</sup> member club in the GTAPA. Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) is a nonprofit philatelic organization specializing in the collecting, study, and enjoyment of stamps and other postal items celebrating the Boy Scout and Girl Scout (Guide) movements.

*Garfield Portch*



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### AN OPEN INVITATION

Philatelic clubs operating in the Greater Toronto Area are invited to join the Alliance. Remember:  
**"we work best when  
we work together"**

The Alliance meets monthly on the fourth  
Wednesday at the  
V. G. Greene Research Foundation  
10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto

### WEB SITE

[www.gtapa.org](http://www.gtapa.org)

# THE FORGOTTEN RAILWAY

by J.R.G. "Bob" Bleasby

Originally presented in the Etobicoke Philatelic Society newsletter

Many of our members may know of the British Post Office's own underground railway, opened in 1927, which links the main sorting office at Mount Pleasant with two of the main railway termini. But I wonder how many know of its predecessor, the Pneumatic Despatch Railway built under the London streets some sixty years earlier.

The idea of using pneumatic tubes as a method of transmission was first put forward in 1667 by the then celebrated French engineer Denis Papin. However, it would seem that it was not until as late as the 1820s that experiments were carried out, though none of these involved the movement of mail.

The British Post Office first began to consider this method of transport in 1863 when it inspected the new pneumatic railway that had been built by the Pneumatic Despatch Company. It ran between Euston station and Eversholt Street, some nine feet below ground level. The tunnels resembled the shape of a 'D' turned on its side and were only four feet high.

The carriages, in which the passenger lay in the prone position, came within an inch of the tunnel all round and to make them airtight, the carriages had rubber flaps. They were sucked along the tunnels by the air in front of them being exhausted and reached speeds up to 35 m.p.h. (56 k.p.h.). The system acquired the name of 'the tube' and at one time it became very fashionable to ride in it in total darkness with the tunnel only inches from your face.

The company got into financial difficulties in 1866 but with Government backing managed to recover and reopen in 1873 with an extended system. By December 1873 mail was again being carried but, despite their satisfaction with the speed and service, the Post Office refused to enter into a permanent agreement and the carriage of mail finally ceased. This was the beginning of the end for the Pneumatic Despatch Company and by 1876 it was quietly wound up leaving an investment of £175,000 literally 'down the tube'.

This was not the complete end of the story as on December 20 & 21, 1928 a series of explosions occurred in the disused tunnels caused by a build-up of gases. After much correspondence (this time carried on above ground) between the Post Office and the local Council the tunnels were supposed to have been either filled in or ventilated. However more of the tunnels were unearthed in 1930, when a number of the old carriages were discovered and even later still, during the rebuilding of Euston station in 1960.

So now you know why London's underground railway system is called 'the tube'. It really was a tube.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE

- Four years of planning
- Outstanding support from all clubs in the GTAPA
- Launch of five new definitive stamps by Canada Post
- 348 frames of exhibits
- 79 exhibitors
- 18 gold medals awarded
- 20 vermeil medals awarded
- 52 dealers from Canada, U.S.A., Australia and Great Britain
- Judges from Canada, U.S.A. and Australia
- Exhibits from Canada, U.S.A. Denmark, Australia, India and St. Pierre & Miquelon
- Youth exhibitors from Canada, India and St. Pierre & Miquelon
- **Betty Beddows'** Youth Booth
- 6 booths in Society Row
- Youth Workshop on the Theme of Hockey with a trip to the Hockey Hall of Fame
- **Cimon Morin**, Library and Archives Canada, presented a seminar discussing on-line research material
- Members' meeting of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society
- Members' meeting of the Golden Horseshoe Regional Group of BNAPS
- An exceptionally successful judges' critique
- A Judging seminar hosted by **J.J. Danielski**
- The first Canadian meeting for members of the Mourning Stamps and Covers Club.
- Members' meeting of the Maple Leaf unit of Scouts on Stamps International
- A discussion about the RPSC Judging Program hosted by **David Piercey**
- A reception and awards dinner at the Radisson Hotel was attended by 89 participants
- Six Canadian philatelists were invited to sign the roll book as Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada – the highest honour in Canadian philately.

**Christiane Faucher**

**Alan Hanks**

**Doug Lingard**

**George Peppal**

**Jacques Poitras**

**Robert Thorne**

- Two of the new Fellows are members of GTAPA clubs. **Alan Hanks** is a member of the North Toronto Stamp Club and **Bob Thorne** is President of the Bramalea Stamp Club.
- North Toronto Stamp Club was the winner of the GTAPA Challenge Award presented to the team with the highest aggregate score for three single frame exhibits.
- North Toronto Stamp Club was also the winner of the "One Frame – Single Page" competition that was contested by none clubs this year.

**Thank you to all who helped make this event a huge success!**

# PhilaJournal

The official publication of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

*PhilaJournal* is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge to members of stamp clubs that are members of the Alliance.

## The Mission:

The mission of *PhilaJournal* is to provide its readers with news and information on philately in general with emphasis on the GTAPA members giving them something new and interesting to enjoy.

Opinions expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Alliance. The GTAPA cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information provided herein.

Permission is granted to reprint material from *PhilaJournal*, provided that appropriate credit is given to both *PhilaJournal* and the author.

## Editorial Staff

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## Subscription

Non-members wishing to receive *PhilaJournal* (four times a year), by ordinary mail, must send a cheque in the amount of \$16.00 to:

GTAPA Treasurer  
Box 45, 260 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5A 1N1

## Advertising

Anyone wishing to place an ad in *PhilaJournal* to promote their product or service, may contact:

Ernie Nyitrai at 905-477-1511  
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## Rates (effective September, 2007)

Space	1 issue	4 issues
ToonieAd (Up to 5 lines)	\$2.00	\$8.00
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Your feedback is important to us. If anyone has any philatelic item for publication, or any suggestions to improve *PhilaJournal*, please contact the editor. This is the medium that keeps the members of The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance in touch and informed.

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MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, L4X 2S3

## THE EDITOR'S SPACE

Wow! another year almost gone already! Time does fly when you are having fun. Thankfully, the work of the ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE is now finished giving us the chance to return to normal routines.

We welcome **Wylie's Neighbourhood Pub and Eatery** as a new advertiser. This is the place that we meet to eat (and down a pint) prior to GTAPA and other meetings held at the Greene Foundation. Come to dinner and a meeting with your fellow members!

*The Forgotten Railway* by **Bob Bleasby** was written and published by Bob when he was the editor of the newsletter of the Etobicoke Philatelic Society in the mid 1990's. The Etobicoke Society merged with the West Toronto Stamp Club in 1997.

**John Wilson** (North Toronto) writes of his baptism of fire as an apprentice juror at the ROYAL giving readers an interesting insight into the operations of a stamp show.

**Robert Pinet** (North Toronto) continues his series of articles about refugee mail. I am delighted to report that Robert defended his thesis this summer and has earned his Ph.D.! Well done Doctor Bob!

From England, we welcome the story *What is a BOO?* submitted by **Ken Lewis**, a Director of the RPSC and frequent contributor to the Canadian Philatelist and other national journals.

Best wishes to one and all for a safe and happy holiday season. May we all enjoy health and happiness in 2008!

*gjp*

## DEADLINE

The Spring Issue of *PhilaJournal* will be distributed in the last week of February. Contributions must be in the editor's possession by the **7<sup>th</sup> of February**.

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## President's Message

The ROYAL is over and things in the Butler Household and the GTAPA are slowly getting back to normal. When you read this, I will have just returned from a three-week excursion to China. (Nothing philatelic you understand, although I hope to obtain a few stamps commemorating the completion of the Three Gorges Dam.) It's a trip I had promised my wife we would take and came at a great time to enjoy a change from the hectic schedule we had been following over the last several months as we anticipated the ROYAL and all the arrangements, schedules and special programs that must be done to make it a great show.

*Incidentally, I am writing this in early November before going to China. We will be visiting the world's largest and most powerful hydro-electric dam and taking a three-day cruise, 400 miles from the dam, to see the three different gorges that make up this incredible water system. Can you imagine? The dam is over 600 feet high and stretches over a mile across the reservoir. The stamps I am after will be the final item(s) in a one-page exhibit that I can't wait to complete on our return!*

I do want to reflect on the ROYAL and the terrific job, our team of managers and volunteers did to carry it off in great style. The accomplishments were outstanding and the clubs of the GTAPA can be very proud of their work to make the **ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE** one of the greatest Canadian philatelic exhibitions in recent memory.

It was a team effort from the start and the culmination of four years of planning and learning what it would take to run a successful national convention and stamp show. Yes, it was four years ago that we applied to the Board of Directors of The RPSC to host the event in 2007. That year, we revitalized **STAMPEX**, we agreed to host **AmeriStamp Expo** in 2006 and we later re-established **STAMPEX** as a national show, the first one in Toronto in over a decade.

Through four years and five important stamp shows, we learned the "ins and outs" of holding large stamp exhibitions. There were a few rocky times and we were sometimes short of volunteers, exhibitors and judges. But overall, it has been a great run with a learning curve that has proved to be a tremendous experience! It is now time to rest on our laurels, and to step back to reflect on our accomplishments, even begin to think about the future. Our organization is very tired and needs time to discuss what that future holds for shows in Toronto. But more about that in the next issue.

While we are still in the throws of success and before we venture forward, we must pause to congratulate and thank all those who worked collectively to carry off the challenges incredibly well. Here is a list of the managers and a very brief outline of their responsibilities:

- ♦ **Alan Hanks** (NTSC) was the chairman of the exhibition, registrar of the exhibits and coordinator of the

judging panel. He received the entry forms, sent copies of the synopsis and title pages to the judges and created the floor plan for over 360 exhibits.

- ♦ **Garfield Portch** (WTSC) was responsible for putting together the 48-page show program. That included the gathering of all the advertisements, colour and B&W, organizing the articles, the welcome pages, the lists of exhibitors, prizes and dealers and magically making it all come to the right number of pages plus eight colour cover ads. He also looked after the *Palmares*, the gathering and organizing of all the awards and prizes, the creation of all the different certificates and the presentations at the awards Banquet.

- ♦ **Jim Carleton** (SSC) was the manager of the GTAPA Booth and was there all three days carrying out duties that included the selling of commemorative postcards and covers, ably assisted by **Harvey Shuter** who designed and produced both the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centennials Cover and the Beneficial Insects Cover. Jim also sold the annual historic districts of Toronto postcards, distributed GTAPA, ATA and Canadiana Study Group brochures and a myriad of other jobs from "Mr. Information" to keeping the cookie bowl full, to the delight of everyone who passed by the booth.

- ♦ **Dave Stone** (SSC) organized and led his team of volunteers through two excellent youth programs. First, forty beginner collectors from Scarborough schools; attended a day of presentations and workshops, received dozens of free stamps, tongs and a magnifying glass, toured the dealer booths, and learned "oodles of stuff" about the hobby. The second day saw a group of 35 experienced young collectors and parents; enjoy a presentation on thematic collecting with hockey as the topic and receive free stamps and covers, stock cards and album pages. They then went for a tour of the Hockey Hall of Fame before returning to the show for more "freebies."

- ♦ **Elaine Skinner** (ETSC) was in charge of the front of house organization which included; the creation of 150 registration packages, the supervision of admissions and program distribution and banking arrangements. She was also responsible for the organization of the President's Reception and Awards Banquet which included the ordering of the food, deciding on the menu and the organization of the tables.

- ♦ **Robert Owczarz** (P-C C&SC) was my valuable assistant for all four days in dealing with all decisions on the show floor. He oversaw the organization of the putting up of exhibits and their take-down, the frame delivery and their removal from the building, the movement of tables and chairs for the various events and troubleshooting any glitches that occurred during the show. He also accompanied me to the frame storage facility on several occasions to assist with the organization of heavy equipment to the transport the frames.

♦ **Bob Thorne** (BSC) was the indispensable manager responsible for the set-up and take-down of the exhibition frames. He was the first person there on Thursday morning and the last one there on Sunday evening. He took Alan Hank's floor plan and brought it to life with close to 200 frames in rows, divider walls and cubes! He directed his work crew competently and worked alongside his volunteers with humour and no-nonsense directions throughout the set-up and take-down.

♦ **Geoff Ewing** (NTSC) was responsible for the set-up for all the presentations, workshops, seminars and meetings for the entire show. He moved the chairs and tables, set up the AV equipment, welcomed and thanked the presenters and gave out certificates of appreciation. He was elected "best show announcer" for using his silken baritone voice effectively throughout the show.

♦ **Ernie Nyitrai** (NTSC) raised all the funds required for the production of the show program, which was self-sustaining due to his competency and the excellent relationship he developed with our advertisers who were mainly dealers from the bourse.

♦ **Joe Janthur** (I&BPS) was our show treasurer and banker. He gathered all the cheques from many sources from early in the summer to the show days, deposited them as well as the daily gathering of the cash at the show. He wrote the cheques and kept accurate records of every transaction and made sure the managers were responsible for the recording of all expenses and their collection of cash.

♦ As for me, I had the tremendous privilege of working with all of the above managers and coordinating their efforts to ensure the success of the show. I chaired the group, held monthly meetings with the managers, arranged the presentations, was the liaison with Canada Post, the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association and The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Canadian Stamp News.

Here is a list of the many volunteers who came from all 12 clubs in the GTAPA, to assist various managers with their responsibilities:

**Don Beaumont, Reay Cairns, Doug Cockburn, Bruce Coleman, Ron Dell'Agnese, Hilja Ekberg, Steve Haddock, Josh Hodgson, Jerry Kayln, Herb Kucera, John Laraway, George MacLean, Gord Payne, Jerry Piotrowski, Stan Shakespeare, Owen White and Art Wilkinson.**

Others helped along the way but were unable to attend the show.

Please accept our apologies if we have missed including your name in our list. We would be pleased to make amends in the next issue. Such is the risk of thanking individuals publicly but we think it's important to try and include as many as possible.

Special thanks is acknowledged here of the team of workers that showed up from the **Saugeen Stamp Club** who came down from Hanover to lend a much-needed hand with the frames on the Thursday. **Peter Kritz** the organizer of the group and club president said, "We had a lot of help from Toronto at the ROYAL in Hanover in 2003 and we wanted to repay the favour to Toronto." Thanks Saugeen for your great help!

I must add to the long list of recognitions above, my pleasure in the dealings I had with **John Sheffield** (CSDA) executive director of shows, who did most of the publicity and media relations for the ROYAL. He also arranged the floor plan for the entire show and the booth arrangements. The CSDA paid for the rental of the QE Building, the "poles and drapes" and many extras that aren't seen by visitors attending the show.

I am indebted to **Rick Penko**, my good friend and the President of The RPSC. His advice was always positive and very helpful. He assisted us with the popular overprinting of the Centennial stamps for the Banquet program and the commemorative cover. His assistance with the show set-up on Thursday and the take-down on Sunday was also truly appreciated. I hope that our welcome to the RPSC Board of Directors and the facility provided were conducive to a pleasant two days of meetings.

Finally, I wish to extend sincere thanks to Canada Post for providing; the Opening Day Continental Breakfast, the resources for the celebration of the new Endangered Insects definitive stamps, a major prize for the Awards Banquet, the four pictorial cancellers for our commemorative covers and the Canada Post sales booth.

It was a show to remember, the exhibition was the finest in many years and the quality of the material may never be seen again in a Canadian philatelic exhibition. What more needs to be said. It was our responsibility to provide the exhibition and we did in flying colours. Congratulations GTAPA, you did a magnificent job!

**Peter Butler**

Show Palmares can be seen on the GTAPA web-site at **[www.gtapa.org](http://www.gtapa.org)**

A woman goes to a yard sale to see about selling her husband's stamp collection. She explains that her late husband was a philatelist. The woman in charge replied, "Oh, I am too, Honey – I always say if something is gonna happen, it's gonna happen!"



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Some may say so, but why not find out for yourself? We hold regular stamp auctions that cover the world. If you are looking for a single stamp or a box full, a specific set or cover, that special item or an entire collection you may find it in one of our auctions. With hundreds of lots each year in all sizes and price ranges, each sale has *something for everyone!*

A complimentary catalogue of our next sale is waiting to be mailed.

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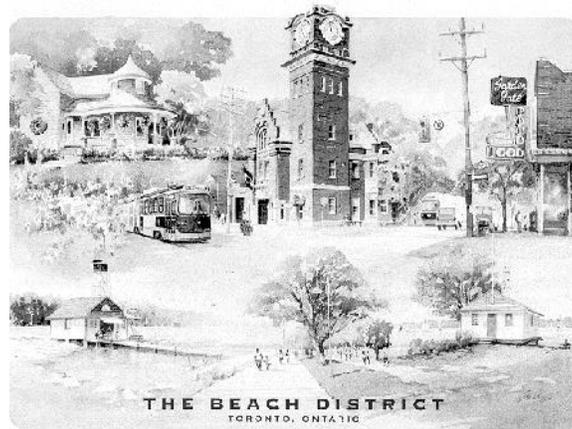
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# Show Cachets & Post Card from ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE



Two cachets, designed by Harvey Shuter, were produced in colour



Number Three in a series of postcards depicting Toronto's historic buildings and printed annually by the GTAPA for collectors from an original watercolour by John Stuart Pryce of Toronto

## Special Postmarks

Canada Post produced the following special postmarks for the duration of Royal \* 2007 \* Royale



# GTAPA MEMBER CLUBS' NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** (from 2 to 4 pm), October to June and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** (from 7 to 9 pm) year round at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd and Bramalea Rd.), Brampton. Visitors always welcome.

For more information contact Bob Thorne at  
905-792-3526 or e-mail  
[r.thorne@sympatico.ca](mailto:r.thorne@sympatico.ca)

Check out our web site at  
[www.bramaleastampclub.com](http://www.bramaleastampclub.com)

Congratulations to club president **Bob Thorne** on being named a *Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada*. This is the highest Canadian recognition a philatelist can receive.

In the GTAPA Challenge Cup competition at ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE, the Bramalea club was well represented by **Ingo Nessel** who earned a Silver medal and **Steve Johnson** and **Bob Thorne** who each were awarded Silver Bronze. Steve took home additional medals with a Gold in single frame competition and Silver in the GTAPA Challenge Cup competition as a member of the winning North Toronto Stamp Club team.

Thanks are extended to members **Joe Trauzzi**, **Charlie Mlotek**, **Don Garlick** and **Jerry Piotrowski** for being on Bob's frame set up and tear down group at ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE.

The club circuit sales books were recently taken the GRVPA Grand Fair in Cambridge. Circuit sales manager **Paul Williams** was helped by **Bob Thorne**, **Charlie Mlotek**, **Don Garlick**, **Ingo Nessel**, **Jerry Piotrowski** and **Merv McKean**.

The following theme night topics have been added to the list announced in the previous issue of PhilaJournal.

January 15	Firsts
February 19	Automobiles
March 18	Heart

Plan now to attend the Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse to be held on Saturday February 2 2008. Details elsewhere in this issue and on our web site.

*Jerry Piotrowski*



## EAST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Meetings are at Stan Wadlow Senior's Action Centre on Cedarvale Ave., (Woodbine & Cosburn area) on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, October to May, at 9:30 to 11 :00 a.m.

The membership fee is \$5.00 yearly, payable to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse for Seniors.

Activities include stamp exchanges, a stamp dealer who buys and sells stamps, estate evaluations and disposals, stamp chats and fellowship. Full benefits at the centre are available to the members including: social events, bus trips, card playing and exercise classes.

The objective of the club is to provide a meeting place to enjoy the hobby. Stamp collecting is often a solitary hobby so having a place to meet and enjoy the various activities, in a social atmosphere, is very worthwhile.

*Doug Cockburn*



## INSURANCE & BANKING PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on the premises of DEPAG Agency, 14th floor at 67 Yonge Street on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting dates in 2008 will be January 24 and February 28.

The discussion of meeting venues continues to be a lively topic. Meetings will continue to be held in the office of DEPAG pending resolution of the issue. Visitors to meetings are advised to phone Joe Janthur (416-364-4112) to arrange entry as the building closes at 6:00 pm.



## NORTH TORONTO STAMP CLUB

The North Toronto Stamp Club holds its meetings at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Yonge Street at Heath Street, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Nov. 8, 2007: 1-page exhibitors and Challenge Cup distribution of certificates. As well, if you are interested in 1-page exhibiting, bring along some material or a first attempt or some ideas and

questions. We will be looking for possible exhibits for both our club's annual exhibition in the spring and next fall's 1-page team event.

Nov. 22, 2007: **Derek Paul** will speak on ***Philately and the Chalon Portrait.***

Dec. 8, 2007: Winter Bourse – 22 dealers, sales circuit, free admission and limited parking, food concession.

Dec 13, 2007: Christmas (or otherwise seasonal) Party. **Doug Irwin** will present a travelogue of his recent visit to the Tuscany and Amalfi regions of Italy. Members are asked to bring some "goodies" to share with all present.

January 10, 2008: Annual General Meeting and election of executive for 2008.

Jan. 24, 2008: **Leon Matthys** will present ***A Philatelic Tour of Mount Pleasant Cemetery.***

Other meeting dates in 2008:  
Feb. 14 & 28, Mar. 13 & 27

April 11-13 **Annual Exhibition** in conjunction with the CSDA Spring Bourse in the Queen Elizabeth Bldg. at CNE Place

**Bourses** scheduled for 2008:  
March 22, June 14, Sept. 20, Dec. 6  
at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

*Geoff Ewing*



## **NORTH YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from September to June (July & August, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday only) in the Skaters' Lounge at the Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, (1½ blocks west of Bathurst Street). Meetings feature convivial atmosphere, auctions, and a number of dealer members. Membership fee for this season is only \$5.00 if paid before December 31, 2007. Ample free parking. NYPS is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada as well as the GTAPA.

### Program:

December 5 – Keep all your own sales  
December 19 – Open  
January 2 – Open  
January 16 – Speaker (TBA)  
February 6 – Open  
February 20 – Speaker (TBA)  
March 5 – Open

March 19 – Speaker (TBA)  
March 29 – NYPEX Stamp Show (all welcome)  
April 2 – Open  
April 16 – Auction (all welcome)  
May 7 – Keep all your own sales  
May 21, June 4, and June 18 – Open  
July 16 and August 20 – Summer meetings

For more information about the North York Philatelic Society, contact Mike Turk at (905) 731-8380 or via e-mail at [turkm@accessv.com](mailto:turkm@accessv.com).



## **OSHAWA/WHITBY STAMP GROUPS**

The Oshawa Stamp Group meets twice weekly. There is a \$10 annual fee to join Oshawa Seniors.

Tuesdays 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm  
Northview Community Centre  
150 Beatrice Street East, Oshawa

Fridays 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Legends Community Centre  
1661 Harmony Road North, Oshawa

The Whitby Stamp Group meets weekly. There is a fee of \$1 per meeting with the proceeds to Whitby Seniors.

Mondays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Seniors Building  
801 Brock Street South, Whitby

For information contact:

Larry Friend	905-723-8798
Gordon Wick	905-404-0796
Jim Stephenson	905-576-4449
Don Beaumont	905-426-3612
Ron Christie	905-432-7628



## **POLISH-CANADIAN COIN AND STAMP CLUB "TROYAK"**

Club "*Troyak*", meets on the last Sunday of each month, except holidays, at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403), Mississauga, Ontario.

The Club's mailing address is: 2550 Goldenridge Road, Unit 14, Mississauga, ON, L4X 2S3, Canada.

"*Troyak*" was established with goals towards education, collecting and preservation of coins,

stamps, paper money, orders and medals of Poland's history.

The Club is officially registered member at the Ontario Numismatic Association and is an active member of the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance

The Polish - Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "Troyak" is a non - profit organization which can always provide assistance in dealing with issues concerning coins and stamps. Persons who are interested in the education and study in numismatic and philatelic matters are welcome.

"Troyak's" Executive Team has established in February 2005, "Troyak Junior" Philatelic Club, and **Zygmunt (Ziggy) Borowski** is club's director. For more information, contact: Ziggy at 416-454-2790 or [bzygmunt@hotmail.com](mailto:bzygmunt@hotmail.com)

"Troyak" Club next meetings are planned for December 9, 2007, January 28, 2008, February 25, 2008 and March 2, 2008 - V Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2008. Refreshments are always available. Club issues monthly info/bulletin on its website and also publishes bulletin for the members who attend club meetings. For more information, contact: **Janusz (Peter) Machulec** at 647-400-7857 or [www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com) or [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com) New members are always welcome.

#### MARCH 2, 2008, Mississauga, ON

V Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2008, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Mississauga, Ontario (just south of 403). Organized by the Polish - Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak" of Toronto. Many tables of coins, medals, paper money, stamps, militaria & antique papers. Polonica & historical souvenirs. Exhibit of Upper Silesia's coins, stamps, paper money, sports pins, medals & collectibles... Exhibit of Polish POW camps stamps of WWII. Stamp Exhibit - John Paul II On World Stamps. Polish Mint info table. Polish stamps expert info table. "Troyak Junior" table with boxes of free stamps for kids. Troyak special medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available. Sunday March 2, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more info call: Janusz (Peter) Machulec 647-400-7857 or 416-724-4410 or visit website: [www.troyakclub.com](http://www.troyakclub.com) or [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com)

*Robert Owczarz*



## MAPLE LEAF CHAPTER, SOSSI SCOUTS ON STAMPS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

The Maple Leaf Chapter meets on the third Sunday of each month from September through May at 2:00 pm (coffee/cookies at 1:30 pm). Meetings are held in different locations within Toronto and southwestern Ontario as follows:

Sep 16 - Toronto Scout House - Summer Review - Canadian & World Jamborees philately.

Oct 14 - ROYAL\*2007\*ROYALE - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting

Nov 18 - Kitchener Scout House - Auction

Jan 20 - Chinese Community Assoc. Building (Steeles & Warden) - AGM + Speaker

Feb 17 - Pickering - "Let's Make a Deal" day.

Mar 16 - Kitchener Scout House - Clothesline

Apr 20 - Hamilton - World Jamboree report

Jun 15 - Nlagara Falls Scout House/Museum - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scout Stamp Issues.

Contact: Tony Manson at (416) 447-4281



## TORONTO STAMP COLLECTORS' CLUB

Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from September to, and including, June. Our regular meetings are held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, 426 University Avenue, Toronto, starting at 8 p.m.. Business attire with a tie is a required dress code at the RCMI.

Recent meetings of the TSCC have/will have included an excellent presentation on current activities of the GTAPA by **Peter Butler** and a presentation (expected to be great) on an introduction to Thematic and Topical Philately by **Alan Hanks** - perhaps the most knowledgeable person on the subject in Canada.

On December 11th our Christmas Special Dinner will have an after-dinner presentation by **Dr. David Foote** on "Eclipse Philately". David's presentation will not only present his philatelic gems but will provide an account of his travels in chasing eclipses around the world. Philatelic friends and their guests are welcome to attend at a charge of \$70 per person (includes a great meal from the kitchen of

the Royal Canadian Military Institute). Contact Joe Janthur (416-364-4112) to make all bookings.

For more information contact  
**Owen White** at 416-481-4731  
or by email at [owen.white@sympatico.ca](mailto:owen.white@sympatico.ca)



## SCARBOROUGH STAMP CLUB

The first Tuesday of each month will continue to be a general trading night. The third Tuesday will be devoted to a brief business meeting followed by an auction. Special guest speakers may be held on either night. Members of other clubs and visitors new to the hobby or experienced collectors, are always welcome to attend meetings.

Meetings are held at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 East Park Blvd., (Lawrence and Markham area) in Scarborough. The doors are open at 6:00 p.m. For more information call **Doug Cockburn** at 416-757-4072



## UKRAINIAN COLLECTIBLES SOCIETY (TORONTO)

Society meetings are held the first Monday of every month. Attend and meet people with similar interests.

For further information contact  
**Jerry Kalyn** at 416-251-6898.

We meet at:  
Ukrainian Canadian Social Services  
2445 Bloor Street West, Toronto



## WEST TORONTO STAMP CLUB

Activities are held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm from September to June at Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke, (3 blocks south of Bloor Street and 2 blocks east of Islington Avenue). There is ample free parking.

Membership Dues: \$20 per year for new members and \$15 per year for renewals.

The WTSC has been operating for over 70 years so its program is well established with respect to an award winning club newsletter, regular and

invitational auctions, study group sessions, guest speakers and exhibitions.

### Royal 2007 Exhibition

West Toronto's participation at the Royal 2007 National Philatelic Exhibition was a success. This is what it was achieved by the members of our Club:

- Single-page

15 members participated in the One-frame-Single-page (the award is shown in brackets): **Frank Alusio** (G), **Reay Cairns** (S), **Milton Dorman** (G), **Denzel Fernandes** (G), **Ernie French** (G), **George MacLean** (G), **Aulis Narhi** (G), **Gord Payne** (G), **Garfield Portch** (G), **Gerry Quidzinski** (G), **Stan Shakespeare** (S), **Victor Skidra** (G), **Ted Swain** (S), **Terri Tettmar** (G), **Anne Westhouse** (G) garnering an aggregate 140 points placing an overall second.

- One-frame Club Challenge

In this division the Club was represented by: **Frank Alusio** (V), **Denzel Fernandes** (SB) and **Victor Skidra** (B). In this competition we placed third. Other members who exhibited in this division were: **Joshua Hodgson** (V) and **Herb Kucera** (B), representing the Insurance & Banking Stamp Club; and **Garfield Portch** (V) who represented the North Toronto Stamp Club.

- One-frame (all categories)

In this division our Club was represented by **Garfield Portch** (V) and **Victor Skidra** with two exhibits (one B and one SB).

- Illustrated Mail Division

Some of us have seen and admired the colourful Colorano covers collected by our member **Gord Payne**, but we never seen it in a National Exhibition. We are happy to report that Gord received a Bronze medal.

Well done folks! And congratulations for your participation at this national event. The Club is very proud.

### Upcoming Activities

- The Alusio Single-page Award, the 4th annual, Single-page exhibition, is scheduled for the 20th November 2007 at 7:30 pm.

This is just a reminder that the main purpose of the Single-page exhibit is not to compete but to exercise our ingenuity with the philatelic material which most of us already have.

What is required, in addition to the philatelic material, is a pinch of creativity:

- A subject title
- A page (card stock) preferably in pastel colour
- A brief storyline

- Fill the page with three different elements i.e. stamps, cancellation, cover, booklet, etc.
- Ensure that the text and the material are in harmony with the subject
- Don't just use all ordinary stamps unless the stamps are different: ordinary, pre-cancelled, overprinted, surcharged, from a booklet, etc.

If you haven't tried yet, you have waited too long. GIVE IT A TRY! You'll be glad you did.

• The Fall 2007 Invitational Auction is scheduled for the 11th December 07 at 8:00 pm, viewing is from 7:30. Lots for this auction average 75 and have a minimum catalogue value of \$20.00. This invitation is also extended to other members affiliated with GTAPA. Good hunting and bidding!

To close out a very active 2007, the Club's annual Christmas dinner will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, contact Frank Alusio at 416-621-8232, or e-mail: [alusio@sympatico.ca](mailto:alusio@sympatico.ca)



## YOUTH GRANTS FROM BNAPS

Organizations or schools planning new or expanded activity in support of stamp collecting by youth in 2008 may qualify for limited funding from the British North America Philatelic Society. Now in its third year, the Society's program offers financial grants to encourage philatelic activity among children and young adults.

In 2007, the program funded 17 different programs in the United States and Canada. Grants ranged from \$65 to \$400. In some cases the grant was accompanied by a supply of several thousand stamps for distribution. Programs supported included a number of new school stamp clubs, a first day cover design contest, and youth activities at several stamp shows.

Applications forms are available from [www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org) or from **Bob Dyer**, British North America Philatelic Society, 1708 Granada Court, Petaluma, CA 94954. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2008.

### WANTED

Refugee covers of the Twentieth Century, especially covers from Displaced Persons' (DP) Camps in Germany, Austria, Italy and the USSR from 1945-52.

CONTACT: Robert Pinet  
[robertpinet@canada.com](mailto:robertpinet@canada.com)

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SUMMER POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE  
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10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

FALL POSTAGE STAMP BOURSE  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2008  
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10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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### DIRECTIONS

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church is 1 block north of St. Clair Avenue on the east side of Yonge Street. There is subway access from the St. Clair station. Free parking at the church is limited. City parking (Green P) is available on Alvin Ave., 1 block east, for which there is a charge.

# What is a Boo?

By Ken Lewis

Circa 1870-71 a company located in Japan by the name of Sutherland and Co. operated a horse-carriage (stage coach) service between Yokohama and Tokyo. Because of its increasing popularity Sutherland's introduced their own stamps to show that items of mail had been processed through their own offices. Two stamps were available, both using the same design of a post rider going at full gallop, blowing his post horn, with his bag containing mail streaming out behind him giving the impression of speed. Above the design was the name 'SUTHERLAND & Co.' whilst underneath it has the word 'Postage' plus its denomination. Figure 1 illustrates the lower denomination stamp, a ¼ Boo, and Figure 2 shows the higher value of 1 Boo. The design for both stamps was printed in black, whilst the papers of the different denominations were in different colours; yellow for the ¼ Boo, and pink for the 1 Boo stamps. It is alleged that this service was extended to other cities, and some of the stamps even made an appearance in Hong Kong.

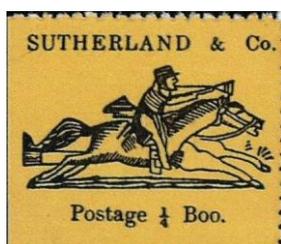


figure 1

Even though these stamps are currently classed as local carriage labels, at the time they were valid postage stamps. What caused their demise to local carriage labels or Cinderellas was the inauguration of the postal service by the Japanese government in 1871. Because all known genuine copies are known to be imperforate on either one or two adjacent sides, it is the consensus of opinion that they were printed in sheets of eight stamps (2x4) with a line perforation of 12 gauge between each stamp. There are no known sheets, either in part or whole, of these stamps, and all the fifteen recorded examples are singles. No examples of these stamps have been found on either on cover or piece, yet a few of the used examples display signs of being attached to a cover or wrapper of some description. Unfortunately, there is no record of the rates involved, but it is anticipated that a letter of one or two sheets would be charged at a ¼ Boo, and the 1 Boo rate would be for heavier letters such as clubbed mail. Each of the known unused stamps were issued without gum; it is most probable that the stamps were not sold direct to the public, but when the sender took their item of mail to one of the company's offices and the correct postage had been paid the clerk personally affixed the stamp to the package indicating to the receiving office that the sender had prepaid the correct postage. A number of these stamps are known with cancels, one copy has a diagonal cross that has been applied in manuscript, and another has the part of a cancel applied that reads 'City of Yedo'. It is this 'City of Yedo' cancel that is causing some concern, by having a number of answers.

Following are two of the many possible answers concerning the cancel 'City of Yedo':

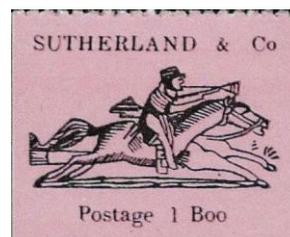


figure 2

(1) There was a ship by the name of 'SS City of Yedo', but this is recorded as being wrecked in 1870. It is thought that this ship may have been used to carry mail and passengers between the ports along its route on behalf of the Sutherland Company. Additionally, the mail could have been posted onboard for delivery at one of the ship's port of call. This ship may have ventured further afield in its voyages, perhaps as far as Hong Kong where it is alleged some of these stamps made their appearance. Were this ship used by the Sutherland Company for transporting mail and passengers it would indicate that the service provided was operational prior to the issuance of the stamps.

(2) The words Edo and Yedo are interchangeable with each other, and it is recorded that prior to the year 1872, Edo (Yedo) was the business section of what is now known as the city of Tokyo. From this it is very likely that the mail originating from the Yokohama office had the stamps cancelled in manuscript with a diagonal cross, whereas the mail sent from Tokyo (Yedo) were cancelled with the specially produced handstamp. This would identify from which office the mail had been dispatched and, therefore, the direction of travel, just in case of an item being returned because it was undeliverable.

It is left to the individual reader to consider the validity of above two answers and come to their own conclusion as to the reason for the handstamp 'City of Yedo'.

Prior to lot 1104 (a ¼ Boo used stamp) being sold at the Greg Manning Galleries auction held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2003 in Hong Kong, it was sent to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Museum Foundation in Tokyo. In May 2003 the Foundation declared it to be genuine and issued a certificate number 03002 stating their considered opinion. It was found in a British collection and is now recorded as the fifteenth example of the Sutherland stamps and the eighth example of the ¼ Boo stamp. This particular stamp was estimated at HK\$150,000-170,000, how much it realised is unknown. A similar stamp from the collection of L. W. Christenson is now in the U. S. National Postal Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D. C. It is reported that George B. Sloane (a U. S. Specialist dealer) sold the stamp to Mr. Christenson in 1953. In one of the 1962 Siegel auctions, the only known used example of the 1 Boo stamp was sold for US\$410, which (it is reported) eventually ended up in the Christenson collection.

The table below lists the valuations of these two stamps, as appeared in the 2003 edition of the JSCA (Japan Stamps Specialised Catalogue in Japanese Yen (¥)) together with the numbers known:

JSCA Cat No. Denomination	Valuations		Numbers known	
	Unused	Used	Unused	Used
2L1            ¼ Boo	¥4,000,000	¥3,800,000	2	6
2L2            1 Boo	Unknown	¥3,500,000	0	1
2L2a           1 Boo altered to ¼ Boo	¥3,800,000	¥4,000,000	5	1
<b>Total (of the 15 known examples)</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

The variation 2L2a has the figure '1' from the denomination altered by hand to read '¼' Boo. Most probably there was a deficit of ¼ Boo stamps together with a surplus of 1 Boo stamps on hand, and the clerks used their initiative to use the remaining stock of stamps that were available to the best advantage.

To give some sort of monetary comparison at the time of writing (2007) the exchange rates were:

$$\text{¥239} = \text{US\$1.9626} = \text{GBP 1.000} = \text{Can\$2.315}$$

It was in 1871 when the Japanese government changed their currency and also introduced their own postal service so that the mail service of Sutherland & Co. abruptly became to an end. These two stamps had a short life and, therefore, are eagerly collected as and when they appear for sale.

It is anticipated that the two stamps shown in Figures 1 & 2 came from the 1956 reprints, and are not the genuine items, but are ideal to illustrate this article. The 1956 reprints were produced in blocks of four, each stamp was imperforate on two adjacent sides with the same line perforation of 12 between the stamps, and the paper used was both thicker and glossier than the originals. Whatever the case, these examples illustrate a very rarely seen set of stamps, and not many collectors know much about them or their fascinating history.

Now to answer the question 'What is a Boo?' A 'Boo' was the anglicised spelling of the Japanese word Bu, which was a rectangular silver coin minted and introduced in 1837, and was still being produced at the time of this mail service. One Bu was equivalent to four Shu, therefore, it follows that ¼ Boo was equal to one Shu. A potted history of the Japanese monetary system can be found under the following heading 'Monetary system (a potted history)'. Reading this potted history of the Japanese currency will give a fuller background and put everything into context.

#### Monetary system (a potted history)

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century Lord Takeda became renowned for minting high quality gold coins. His coinage, the 'Koshu kin' was sub-divided as follows:

- 1 Ryo                    = 4 Bu
- 1 Bu                     = 4 Shu
- 1 Shu                   = 4 Shuchu
- 1 Shuchu              = 2 Itome
- 1 Itome                 = 2 Koitome
- 1 Koitome             = 2 Koitomechu
- 1 Koitomechu

The Ryo was equal to approximately 15g of gold. All the gold coins were counted in fours, while the others were minted in silver and counted in twos.

Prior to 1600 many of the coins used within Japan originated in China. Japanese goods were sold to the Chinese merchants for coins; these coins were then used for trade amongst the Japanese people.

During the Edo Period (from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century) the coinage was standardised, albeit on a regional basis, and the Koshu kin system adopted to be the standard. Because trade was transacted in gold coins the Ryo changed its name and became known as the Koban. The Koban was equated to the value of a Koku of rice. A Koku was the standard economic measure being either 180.39 Kg (weight) or 180.39 litres (capacity), with rice being a common trading commodity, in pre-modern Japan. In the Osaka area, which was the recognised market place of Japan, all major transactions used silver coins. These silver coins were measured in Momme, and 1 Momme was equal to 3.75g of silver. For smaller trading the copper coins called 'Mon' were used.

In 1871 Japan changed from a feudal system to a parliamentary government. During this changeover period Japan adopted the bimetallism standard (gold and silver) as part of the modernisation process. The currency in 1871 was simplified from the Koshu kin system to 1 Sen = 100 Mon, but, one year later, it changed again to 1 Yen = 100 Sen and 1 Sen = 100 Rin. For domestic trade all the Yen coins were minted in gold, whereas those intended for foreign trade were produced in silver.

It was not until 1882 that each of Japan's national banks were replaced with the Bank of Japan, which also took over the production of all Japan's currency. This put Japan on to the Silver standard, but this was altered in 1897 when Japan changed to the gold standard as used by most of the industrialised countries of the world. Because of rampant inflation, which occurred during and after 1942, the Sen and Rin coins became worthless this just left the Yen; this is why everything is now denominated in Yen.

During the time when these stamps were being used the one Bu coin was rectangular in shape and minted in silver, and the Shu were made from copper, whereas there was a 2 Bu coin that was both made of gold and rectangular in shape. This means that the Bu was a coin that traversed both the gold and silver coinage.

## Conclusion

As can be seen the history behind these stamps is fascinating and when combined with the monetary system it becomes more intriguing. Very few collectors know about these stamps, even less have any idea of their history; this little article is intended to enlighten those who are interested. It has been mentioned within the text that there are no records of the postage rates and those rates proposed are based upon the outcome of the research into this subject. Because the design shows a post-rider with a satchel for carrying the mail, it gives the impression that only letters were carried on this service.

At the time of this service many of the ordinary citizens of Japan could neither read nor write (this also applies to other countries of the world), therefore, the majority of the mail was being sent between businesses. Because of this it was highly likely that the clerk preparing the mail to be carried by the next departure would record the sender's details in a log and then cancelled the stamp to indicate that the sender's details had been logged. Businesses demanded some sort of record keeping of their outgoing mail, and expected the carrier to do the same, any incoming mail was automatically logged by the individual business. It was standard practice, as it is today, for businesses to apply the date of delivery onto the contents of the mail, and this is why entires and letters of this time usually carry a date of delivery applied in manuscript.

There is one controversial area concerning the cancel 'City of Yedo', and two possible scenarios are included for consideration. Nevertheless, the individual reader can make up their own mind as to the reason for the handstamp; perhaps they would like to contact the Editor of this Journal to express their thoughts.

It is a pity that the collecting of postal history was not considered to be a worthwhile part of philately during these early years, as a few covers complete with stamps would have been extremely helpful in researching the dates that the Sutherland Company were operating this service together with the reason for the two postal rates. Because stamp collecting was the main hobby of the era, collectors removed the stamps from the covers or wrappers, put them into their collections, and finally discarded the covers. This is the reason why the proposed rates can only be speculative, and until some proof becomes available the actual rates will be a matter for continual discussion.

## Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are to be extended to Kenneth G. Clark of the Japan Philatelic Group Ltd., Colin Lewis, Francis Kiddle, and the Bank of Japan Currency Museum for their generous assistance into helping with the historic research of these stamps.

*Editor's note: Len Lewis, a resident of Swansea in the U.K., is the only director of the R.P.S.C who lives outside North America. He is a regular contributor to the Canadian Philatelist.*

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## POSTCARDS REVEAL GLIMPSES INTO THE LIVES OF A UKRAINIAN VOLKSDEUTCHE FAMILY

by Robert Pinet



From the Middle Ages on, German colonists settled vast areas outside of present-day Germany, including the Baltic, eastward beyond the Vistula River into Russia, along the Danube, throughout the Balkans and southward into the Alps (Marrus, 1985, p.223). Descendants of these colonists living outside the German Reich came to be known as the *Volksdeutsche* (ethnic Germans), in contrast to the *Reischdeutsche* (Imperial Germans) living in Germany (Wipidepida, August 2007).

After the Nazi takeover, an organization known as *Heim ins Reich* (Home in the Reich) cared for new immigrants, whose number rose from 2,500 per month in 1938, to 4,000 in 1939. In that year, the German Reich signed agreements with a number of governments, including those of the Baltic countries, Switzerland, and the Soviet Union. In fact, "Russians permitted Volksdeutsche from Ukrainian and Belorussian regions to enter Nazi-held Poland. At the same time, Nazis determined to oust Germans living in the *Generalgouvernement* [made up of most of German-occupied Poland], obliging them to settle in the newly annexed territories" (Marrus, p. 223).

In occupied Poland, the Germans established a central registration bureau, called the *Deutsche Volksliste* (DVL, or German People's List), where they registered Polish citizens of German origin. Poles were encouraged, by such organizations as the *Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle* (VoMi, or Ethnic Germans' Welfare Office) to register themselves as such, and were accorded benefits, including better food and property that had been looted from Poles and Jews. While considered collaborators and traitors by most Poles (among whom the term *Volksdeutsche* continues to be synonymous with 'traitor'), many ethnic Germans played an important part in the Polish Resistance and aided the Allied cause. Still, after the war, most of these double-agents were persecuted by the Communist government imposed on Poland.

During the entire course of the war, over 1.25 million ethnic Germans were moved from occupied territories. Of these, fewer than 500,000 were ever settled on farms, mostly in the incorporated territories of Poland. "The rest were simply moved from camp to camp" (Marrus, 1985, p.224). Those ethnic Germans who did settle on

farmlands were exposed to violent reprisals by the local Polish population and resistance fighters.

Most Volksdeutsche left or were expelled from countries in the course of the German exodus from Eastern Europe. They formed a large percentage of the population of both East and West Germany in 1949, as do their descendents in the reunified Germany.

The two postcards illustrated above, addressed to a W(itold) Hochheim, reveal both the route of resettlement taken by this individual, as well as very different facets of a Volksdeutsche family's life. The first, a Generalgouvernement 12 pf post card with a "Warschau C1 16 VII. 41" cds, from Lidja Degtiar of 29 Nowogrodzka Street in Warsaw, is addressed to Mr. Hochheim in the "Umsiedlerlager [Resettler or Evacuee] Deutschland" in Golluschütz bei (near) Prust. Kreis SCHWETZ." Schwetz is a small town on the western side of the Vistula River, in the Province of West Prussia, 29 miles Northeast of Bromberg.

The message, written in what my Ukrainian-English translator described as 'educated' Ukrainian, is addressed to a female relative of Mr. Hochheim (Our Dear Galya!), probably Witold's wife. Lidja writes: "Your postal card from May 23rd I got on July 14th" which indicates that this family had left their hometown sometime in May, 1941 or earlier, while the German-Russian agreement on the resettlement of Volksdeutsche was still in effect. Lidja continues by giving news about a woman named Tamara (who got a job as a newspaper editor) and Nina and Mitya (an accountant), who all lived on Pius Street, but the writer confides that "I just cannot refresh my memory about where it is; it was forgotten by the time I moved to Warsaw." Lidja also writes about Veroshka and Baby (a younger brother?) but states that she has not able to correspond with them, and asks Galya to send it her any news she might have about them.

The second postcard is inscribed with a 6 pfg Hitler head and bears a Postdam 27 7 42 cds and slogan cancel reading "Worficht / mit feuer in/ Wald und heide" [Caution With fire in Woods and Heath]. The sender is a J. Dorochow in Schaffler (Germany). The message is dated almost one year after the first post card, that is, June 29, 1942. This correspondence features a mixture of Russian and Ukrainian words. Common letters have been written reversed. And the text itself is a puzzle. My translator, Yuliya Sukharyeva., a Russian-speaker, tried to capture the ungrammatical nature of the original in her translation:

*Dear Vitaliy Blodmirovich!*

*I regret that nothing happened. All the children which ones were seeing in Liez, because nothing else doesn't going. I'm hardly asking You, as disinfection of sheep number 8 will be, agreeing telegraph will come and you right away will go. Things you already packing. If disinfection will take longer, what is good, all of it will be more better, because your way didn't come for long to.*

Of course, this message raises many tantalizing questions. Who are the children in Liez? Where are they going? What does the writer mean by the "disinfection of sheep number 8"? If this is indeed coded language, meant to be unintelligible to German officials, it may suggest that the writer is discussing a delay in the resettlement of an individual or group, leading credence to the possibility that the Hochheim family's migration was not voluntary. As it is, the message remains a puzzle.

While addressed to the Hochheims and not written by them, what these two postcards do reveal about this family of ethnic Germans is that their roots were in Eastern Europe, that they communicated in Russian and Ukrainian, that their friends (or relatives) sent them news about their loved ones, asked after missing people, and discussed goings-on in their hometown. The family's political affiliation, their level of support for or resistance to the German occupying forces remains untraceable.

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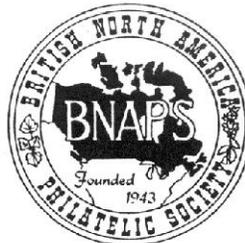
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# An Apprentice at the Royal

*by John Wilson*

To participate in the apprenticeship programme for national-level judging that is run by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, a collector must have already won a national medal at vermeil or higher level. As three judging assignments are required, a spot at a major show is a real plum. I was fortunate to be able to apprentice at the Royal here in Toronto – the quality of the exhibits promised to be good, and the jury were well-known philatelists. The show was in my own home town, as well.

Judges receive advance notice of exhibits as soon as they are confirmed, and in the case of this year's Royal, the frequent mailings from Exhibition Chair Alan Hanks soon made it clear that there would be a very large number of exhibits. It was also obvious, from the quality and number of synopsis pages highlighting the important aspects of an exhibit and the title pages submitted to the jury for their advance preparation, that the breadth of exhibits would be a little daunting.

Like most of the judges I have observed in action, I prepared an exhibits binder which contained these synopsis pages along with back-up references or notes. We had an active and energetic Chairman who utilized the Internet to ensure jury members became acquainted with each other and could share information and expertise on lesser-known areas in advance of our actual meetings at the frames and in the jury room. It is often said that the exhibitor knows more than the judge concerning his or her particular area of specialization, and this knowledge is best conveyed through the synopsis page or pages. Judges will read this information painstakingly in advance, but they will also hold the exhibitor to the claims or assertions made!

Due to the size of the exhibition – we had to judge approximately 300 competitive frames – we divided into teams, with separate schedules of viewing. Each team examined all frames and we met for three distinct sessions to arrive at all medal levels and special awards. Of course the jury has a deadline for this process, as the results must be included in the *Palmares*, and Garfield Portch was resourceful in getting the certificates prepared and the *Palmares* printed within a few hours.

There are quite a surprising number of stress factors involved in judging on this scale. There is the preliminary research – swotting up on areas where you feel uninformed (thank goodness for the V. G. Greene library!) and reading and re-reading the excellent manuals of judging put out by the APS. There is the sheer, head-down sprint of going through the frames and filling out the scoring sheets.

For the apprentice on the jury, there is the very daunting prospect that the Chair is going to ask you to give the first opinion on medal level – he is entitled to so for each of the exhibits, and as a successful apprentice you are expected

to be within one medal level of that finally awarded. At the frames, I was asked to justify my first impressions, and in the jury room I had, like any full-fledged judge, to justify my recommendation for a medal level. Finally, there is a strict code of secrecy; one cannot reveal the deliberations of the jury. No hint of medal level can leak out till the posting of the results, nor can special prizes be made public prior to the awards banquet.

There is one two-part process that strikes terror into the apprentice's heart – the critique and response to an exhibitor. Each exhibit has been assigned a first responder within the jury room. As apprenticing is a testing process, these assignments are evenly divided among the full jury, and the apprentice will be asked to respond to a wide range of exhibits, and not necessarily to those on which he feels qualified to speak!

At the critique, any exhibitor may ask a question, and as the medal level is at that moment very much in the exhibitor's mind, a judge cannot anticipate whether disappointment or optimism will win out.

One comment that comes out at every critique is that good material alone won't bring in a top medal – there must be a story that is logical and properly developed. As well an exhibit needs a good title page indicating what the exhibitor intends to show; it is not at all undesirable to state this explicitly, and to let both the judges and the general viewers know what the most philatelically significant items are.

Concern must be paid to the structure of the exhibit and to the skilful organization of relevant facts. Another concern is that the scope of the exhibit has to match the space available – a problem that often bedevils the one-frame exhibitor in particular.

The critique at this Royal was non-confrontational, informative and helpful and each member of the jury offered to "talk through" exhibits at the frames – surely the ultimate benefit to come from the judging process.

Several long-time judges commented that we were lucky to have so many fine exhibits on display in one place and at one time. I can't imagine a better opportunity to act as an apprentice judge than here. The jury members were mentors, and I had the chance to meet serious exhibitors from far and wide with whom I could share enthusiasms and ideas.

Finally, I have learned to view exhibits with much more sympathy as I see more clearly which challenges of selection of material, use of space and explanation each exhibitor has overcome. This experience was so positive that I can heartily recommend participation in the Royal's apprenticeship programme to anyone who admires the knowledge and ingenuity that go towards making a good exhibit and would like to take up the challenge of judging.

# Oshawa/Whitby Auction, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

by Larry Friend



*Viewing the lots*



*The bidders*

From Trenton/Brighton – Cobourg - Peterboro – Toronto/Scarboro - Mississauga – and places in between they came.

\$5,500 sold with over 400 lots of stamps put into happy new owners hands – not to mention all the new stamps our seller can add to their collections with their new found cash - FANTASTIC! With box lots – packets – binders full – etc. - over 500,000 stamps sold!

Did you miss out? – many bargains were had by almost 100 bidders. Thank you all for your support.

Many noted collector/ dealers and GTAPA members as well as President Peter Butler and Director Jim Carleton were in attendance – again thanks for the support.

What a great day – a well run and organized Auction with help from many of our members and Oshawa Seniors Co-ordinator Sarah Newsom and her mother.

From our Auction treasures – Ron Christie and Lawrence Worrall – organizer Jim Stevenson – Greeters, Denis Wake, Alan Hynes, Gordon Wick – Runners, Shelia Maarse – Marion Rigo, Janette Frohlick, Paul Bony – Setup and take down crew - Auctioneer Larry – THANK YOU and CONGRATS TO ALL.

60 hot Lasagna lunches were enjoyed, cooked and served by Sarah and her mother – with salad and delicious Black Forest Cake for dessert – how good can it get for \$5

We were perhaps a little over zealous with a total of 644 lots on 30 tables - up for auction – with the auction taking a little longer than we planned – we have decided that our spring auction will be maxed out at 500 lots.

YES A SPRING AUCTION! – date to be determined – watch for notification.

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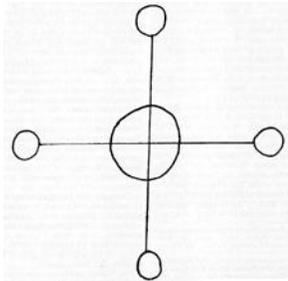
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# WATERMARKS

by Garfield Portch

The *Encyclopedia Americana* defines a watermark as a design or distinguishing mark in paper manufacture used to identify the maker and to guard against counterfeit.

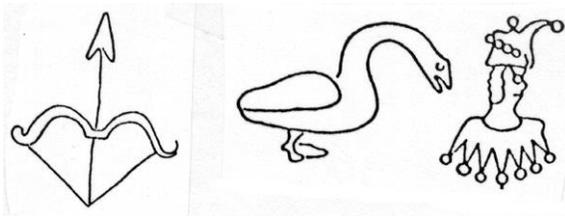
The first recorded watermark was produced in the handmade paper of Fabriano and Bologna paper mills in Italy in 1282 -1285.



One of the oldest watermarks, the pomme cross appeared on paper made by Fabriano in 1293

A number of theories have been advanced on the origins and uses of watermarks. Some suggest that the origins were practical for marking sizes of paper moulds or serving as trademarks of the papermaker.

While most theories suggest a purely symbolic purpose it has also been suggested that heretic papermakers of the middle ages used watermarks as symbols of religious propaganda or alternatively that they were simply artistic expressions of the papermakers.



A watermark on a sheet of paper is created when the liquid-fibre mixture is being drained and pressed into sheets. During this process it passes under a wire roller called a dandy roll that carries a design either raised or in relief.

The amount of water and fibre displaced varies according to the different pressures and this difference becomes visible in the finished product as a watermark.

If the design on the dandy roll is raised the greater pressure in its area makes the paper thinner and less opaque than elsewhere and therefore the watermark design appears to be lighter. If the design is recessed in the dandy roll then the result

is exactly opposite and watermark will appear darker than the rest of the paper.



Only on some of the Canadian Large Queens issue of 1868-1876 do watermarks appear. There were two kinds -the Bothwell and the Pirie marks. The first read:



Bothwell was the name of the street in Glasgow and Clutha the old name for the Clyde.

The second was also made in Scotland by Alexander Pirie & Sons at Stonewood and Culter and read:



Today, there are still many countries using watermarked paper for both definitive and commemorative issues.

In the commercial paper market today, most watermarks are for identifying the mill's product grades and confirming to the user that he is purchasing a quality paper. An exception is in the field of private watermarks through the use of which companies and organizations may achieve an added note of distinction.



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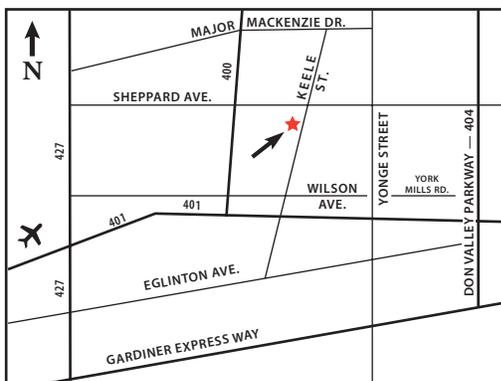


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