



Since 1935

# Bulletin

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

The Club meets at  
**Fairfield Seniors' Centre**  
80 Lothian Ave., Etobicoke, ON  
416-394-8687

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B. Timberg, Editor

## President Sid's Message

The beauty of an Ontario winter is not only the blowing snow and glistening ice on the trees and driveways, but also the realization that I don't have to go outside to cope with the harshness and extremes of this year's winter. Instead, in my warm and snug stamp den, I can find many hours of personal joy and pleasure pursuing stamp collecting in its various iterations.

As stamp collectors and philatelists, we can use these winter months to read philatelic literature, put our collections in order, build our album and exhibit pages, and search through dealer and society websites to find interesting items and information to enhance our collections.

Even though the private world of stamp collecting is enjoyable, getting out and meeting with others remains most important.

March provides WTSC members with multiple opportunities to connect with others. Two I wish to highlight and encourage you to attend are:

- Our WTSC March learning workshop on March 5  
– Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict (Part 2) – Preparing for CANPEX; and
- Trajan Media's National Postage Stamp and Coin Show in Mississauga on March 23 - 24.

To conclude this month's message, on behalf of all WTSC members, congratulations to Garfield Portch who is named and recognized on the selva of the recently released stamp booklet honouring Albert Jackson, Toronto's first black mail carrier. Garfield's contribution to the authenticity of the design was significant and greatly valued. Well done!!

## March Activities

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

**Mar 5 ~ Learning Workshop** (starts 7 – 7:15)  
**Canada: A Nation Touched by Conflict (Part 2) – Preparation for CANPEX**

### Mar 12 ~ Regular Meeting

Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

### Mar 19 ~ Discussion Group

 (starts at 7)

Club member **Garfield Portch** will discuss **Exhibiting Basics**. Prepare for the club's May exhibition.

### Mar 26 ~ Regular Meeting

Club circuit books, exchange of information, show & tell, and auction

## Can You Help?

A very small organization in Etobicoke wishes to purchase a small amount (face value of \$100 or less) of unused, mint Canadian stamps for use on domestic mailings. If you have stamps you wish to sell, please contact the editor at [timberg@bell.net](mailto:timberg@bell.net).

## Sharing Philatelic Magazines

Kathy Hartley of the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Greene commented on our item in the February Bulletin about sharing (and not recycling) philatelic material. Kathy wrote: Funny you mention old philatelic magazines! I was just going through a batch to take up to the Toronto Post Card Collector's meeting this afternoon. I print off a label that has our logo and says 'Compliments of the HSPL' and leave them at the swap table for anyone to pick up. I also take books that don't sell after our book sales that are of a more general theme and leave them in the Little Free Library boxes that are around. I also add a note about all the stamp clubs people might want to visit in the neighbourhood. Maybe you could slip a note about the WTSC in your magazines.

## Board of Directors

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# Toronto's First Black Mail Carrier Honoured With Commemorative Stamp

*By Kat Akerfeldt, Executive Director, Toronto's First Post Office. This article first appeared in the January 2019 edition of the Town of York Historical Society newsletter.*

Many descendents of the Jackson family were amongst those gathered in St. Lawrence Hall's Great Hall on January 24th to help Canada Post unveil a new commemorative stamp featuring Albert Jackson, believed to be Canada's first Black letter carrier.

Former Director/Curator of Toronto's First Post Office, Janet Walters, noted that it was fitting to hold the unveiling in St. Lawrence Hall, as the building is festooned with plaques noting the Hall's importance as a meeting place for the Abolitionist movement, and opened in April of 1851 with a lecture on the subject of slavery.

Albert Jackson arrived in Canada as a toddler, along with six siblings and his mother. In Delaware, Ann Maria Jackson's two oldest sons had been sold, causing their father to die "broken-hearted, crazy." When Ann Maria learned that the man who had enslaved her now planned to sell four more of her children, she fled. Ann Maria's story was notable even at the time, as it was unusual for a woman to travel the Underground Railroad on her own, and to manage it successfully with seven children was an incredible feat.

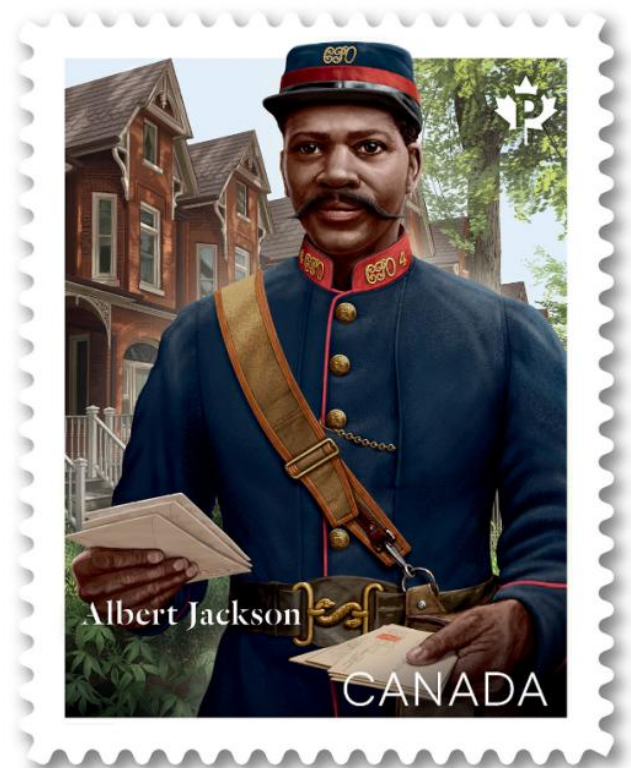
Years later, Albert Jackson, now grown, applied for and was awarded the position of mail carrier in the General Post Office on Adelaide, at the head of Toronto Street. However, when he reported for duty, every other carrier refused to train him, and he was demoted to the position of hall porter. But Toronto's Black community put pressure on the government to intervene on Jackson's behalf. 1882 was an election year, and the issue was taken up and hotly debated by Toronto's newspapers. It became a national issue, with both Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald and the Liberal candidate putting their support behind Jackson. By June, Jackson was delivering the mail, and carried on doing so until his death in 1918.

The stamp depicts Jackson in his blue Canada Post Office Department uniform. Quoted in Canada Post's Details magazine, illustrator Ron Dollekamp said "I wanted to show him performing his duty with a slight smile and a spring in his step, as if he has stepped out of history to hand you your mail."

As Walters pointed out to the crowd in St. Lawrence Hall, when Jackson reported for duty in May of 1882, he had already been given the job. So why were his employers so surprised by the colour of his skin? There is only one possible explanation. Mr. Jackson had applied by mail.

*Toronto's First Post Office is a museum and National Historic Site, administered by the Town of York Historical Society, situated on its original site and within its original walls. Toronto's First Post Office was built in 1833 and, as the only post office in Toronto, served the rapidly growing city until 1839. Today, it is the only remaining example of a British North American post office still in operation, the only interpretive centre for the original Town of York, and welcomes visitors from all over the world.*

*To coincide with the release of the Albert Jackson stamp, Toronto's First Post Office has mounted an exhibit on Jackson's story. Admission to Toronto's First Post Office and the exhibit is by donation.*



## 2019 Shows (GTA & Vicinity)

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **March 23 - 24**.

<http://stampandcoinshow.com/>

**ORAPEX 2019**, the 58th edition of the **Ottawa RA Centre Philatelic Exhibition (ORAPEX)**, will take place in **Ottawa** on **May 4 - 5**.

<http://www.orapex.ca/>

**Royal \*2019\* Royale**, the 91st annual convention and AGM of the RPSC, will take place in **Mississauga** on **June 21 - 23**.

<http://rpscroyal.com/>

The **PHSC Symposium 2019** will take place in **Hamilton** and vicinity on **July 18 - 21**.

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

**BNAPEX 2019**, the 2019 convention, exhibition and bourse of the British North America Philatelic Society, will take place in **Ottawa** on **August 30 - September 1**.

<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2019-Ottawa/>

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **September 7 - 8**.

**CANPEX 2019** will take place in **London** on **October 19 - 20**.

<http://www.canpex.ca/>

The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's **Toronto Day of Aerophilately** will take place in **Toronto** at the Greene on **November 3**.

## Quotes on Stamps: A Contest

Many people love reading quotes. They can be inspiring, motivating, funny, and/or thoughtful. They present a point of view in a few words.

Quotes are sometimes found on stamps. These stamps are not common but they are not rare either.

We are having a contest involving quotes on stamps. Anyone who identifies a stamp having a quote will be entered in a draw for a paid-up individual membership for next year. Your chance of winning will depend on the number of members who enter the contest.

Every contest has rules, and this contest is no different. The specific rules are (read them carefully):

1. The contest is open to any paid-up member.
2. Only one entry per member is allowed.
3. An entry must clearly identify the stamp having a quote. If the quote is in a language other than French or English, a translation must be provided. The stamp may come from any country. (Note also paragraph 6 below.)
4. A quote is a direct quotation from a text or speech. It must appear on the stamp.
5. Entries are to be sent to the editor at [timberg@bell.net](mailto:timberg@bell.net) by April 15, 2019. If you do not have e-mail, contact the editor at 416-580-9242 to discuss submitting your entry.
6. Once a stamp with a quote has been entered in the contest by a member, it will be considered 'taken' and cannot be submitted by other members. If you enter a stamp which has already been entered, you will be notified that you need to find another stamp.
7. The winner will be selected at random from the pool of all members who have participated and will be announced in the May newsletter. A list of stamps identified will also be published.
8. The winner will receive a paid-up individual membership for the 2019-2020 year.

Plan to enter early (due to paragraph 6 above).

## April Learning Workshop

The title for our sixth learning workshop of the 2018-2019 season, on Tuesday, April 2, is "Surprising / Unexpected Mail Deliveries or Non-Deliveries".

In addition to postmarks on covers, which come in numerous styles, other types of markings are worthy of note. Whether they were applied by metal or rubber devices, or were handwritten, such markings provide insight into the routing — or rerouting — of mail. The stories they can tell, with a bit of research, can be both challenging and rewarding to postal history collectors.

Here are a few examples of the topic:

**MISADDRESSED MAIL:** Despite the best of intentions, not everyone addresses their envelopes properly. This can result in covers not being delivered — they are then "Returned to Sender."

**MISDIRECTED MAIL:** Occasionally, a town or city name in one country or province/state has a matching community name in another country/province/state. This can result in a letter going way beyond the intended location, and having to be rerouted.

**POSTAGE DUE:** Sometimes people don't affix the proper postage. In the past, postal staff would apply Postage Due stamps, then a postie would knock on your door asking you to pay the missing fee. Today, however, it's not worth a dime or a quarter of their time.

**WARTIME MAIL:** During wartime, mail was often held for the duration, with appropriate markings applied. More common are 'Censored' covers.

**INTERESTING LETTERS:** Something with contents that contained an unusual message.

**COVERS THAT APPEAR TO HAVE GONE ASTRAY:** Cover or letter that took a circuitous route, with multiple readdress markings on the cover, sometimes taking weeks, even months to reach the addressee.

**DEAD LETTER OFFICE:** Some covers in the old days were marked with a Dead Letter office marker.

**TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED:** Mail from any unexpected source or person.

**NONE OF THE ABOVE, BUT FITS THE THEME OF THE NIGHT.**

(Thanks to our WTSC newsletter editor for suggesting this topic.)

Ian

See illustrations on next pages.









1943 cover from Delhi, Ont. to RR 3, Tillsonburg, but marked 'MISSENT TO' Delhi



West Toronto Stamp Club members listen intently as guests Shirley Griff-Coates and Bill Coates discuss Mourning Covers at the February 19 discussion group (this photo and the following photos are courtesy Ian Robertson)



1983 cover with Christmas stamp, 2-cent Postage Due stamp, 'Stop Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan' misspelled labels, to Globe and Mail stamp columnist Douglas Patrick (eBay seller didn't know of him)



West Toronto Stamp Club members examine Mourning Cover as guests Shirley Griff-Coates and Bill Coates discuss her unusual postal history collection

## February Discussion Group

The February 19 discussion group featured a fascinating evening with Shirley Griff-Coates and her husband, dealer-collector Bill Coates who presented on Mourning Covers.

Thanks to Ian Robertson, we have four photos from the meeting. They are shown in the column to the right and on the next page.

Editor: For information generally on collecting mourning covers, see the Mourning Stamps and Covers Club site at <http://www.mscc.ms/index.html>



Dealer-collector Bill Coates and his wife Shirley Griff-Coates provided insight into the unusual topic of Mourning Covers, her specialty, on February 19, 2019 at the West Toronto Stamp Club discussion group



Shirley Griff-Coates, with a funeral home sample casket box in which she brought Mourning Covers for the February 19, 2019 discussion group evening at the West Toronto Stamp Club