



Since 1935

Bulletin

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

The Club meets at
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B. Timberg, Editor

President Sid's Message

May is exhibition month at WTSC; it is always a time to be amazed, at the philatelic stories that are told, the treasures that support the telling, and the knowledge and enthusiasm of fellow stamp collectors as they share their exhibits. Good luck, on Tuesday, May 8, to all who are entering a Single Page, Multi-Page or One Frame Exhibit.

Finalizing my own exhibition entries over the past few days has not only given me hours of pleasure and increased knowledge but has also again reinforced the value of building a personal philatelic library. What would I do without *W.S. Boggs - The Postal History of Canada*, or *G. Whitworth - The First Decimal Issue of Canada*, and many other reference materials readily at hand as I work to bring clarity to my one-page exhibit entry.

Having philatelic and historic reference books and material available that focus on your collecting interests allows one to unravel a philatelic mystery more quickly, and often opens doors to further avenues of research, and other philatelic collecting and study possibilities.

Once again, this past month has been a terrific month to get deeper into the hobby at WTSC. For those who attended, I am sure you would agree that Dr. Richard Judge's presentation was most informative; it contributed to the understanding and recognition of the complexity of colour and shades not only in the Admiral Issue but as it relates to the colour and shades of any stamp. To his credit Dr. Judge was able to explain the complex chemical and reflective analysis of colour in a manner that the average collector present could understand and appreciate. A special thank you to Garfield for arranging his visit.

At this month's discussion group session (Tuesday, May 15) we will have the opportunity to learn from speaker George Pepall (a past president of the RPSC) as he shares his expertise in the classic era of USA stamps. If you have yet to attend one of our speaker sessions, I would recommend you do so. You will find it an evening well spent.

I look forward to your attendance and participation this coming month.

May Activities

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

May 1 ~ Learning Workshop (starts 7 - 7:15)
Flaunt Those Flaws

May 8 ~ Regular Meeting

Election of new board of directors, and annual club exhibition

May 15 ~ Discussion Group

Guest speaker **George Pepall FRPSC**, from the Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society and a past president of the RPSC, will present on **Leaders and Patriots Design and Symbol in the Second Bureau Series of the USA 1902-1908**. This will be the first time the discussion group has offered a presentation on any stamps of the United States.

May 22 ~ Regular Meeting

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

Discussion Group Schedule

June 19 ~ TBA

Board of Directors Election

The **election** to fill the board for a **two year term (2018 - 2020)** will take place at the club's **May 8 meeting**.

If you are interested in serving, or wish more information about the various positions, please **speak to Don Hedger**. Don may also be contacted at don.hedger@gmail.com.

Please make every effort to attend the meeting. The club needs your full and active participation to continue to be successful.

WTSC Annual Club Exhibition

The **annual club exhibition** will be held on **May 8**. Three types of exhibits are welcome:

~ Single page (for the Alusio Trophy, to be judged according to traditional GTAPA standards)

~ Open class (for the Allan Cup, to be determined by popular vote at the meeting)

~ Single frame (for the Drake Trophy)

Sam Chiu FRPSC, exhibitor, judge and RPSC vice president, will again be the guest judge of the single frame exhibition.

June Learning Workshop

"What If ..." is the topic of our ninth, and last, learning workshop of the season on June 5.

Imagine sitting down for a chat with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Would you ask the famed Austrian composer about what inspired his symphonies and operas? Perhaps you'd want to know what life was like in a royal court more than 200 years ago.

How about asking American novelist Ernest Miller Hemingway about his time here in the 1920s, when he was a reporter with The Toronto Daily Star.

For fun — one of the motives behind our learning workshops — consider bringing commemoratives featuring people you admire, who you'd like to meet or to have met, and perhaps talk with.

The subject is wide open: composers, musicians, actors, authors, artists, politicians, photographers, royalty, civil rights defenders, philanthropists, military and sports legends, scientists, astrologists, inventors ... and the list goes on.

Here are a few of my personal experiences, as a journalist.

Alas, I barely had a chance to thank Maurice Richard, who I met once in the early 1970s. Holding my arm, "Rocket" led me across the ice at Belleville's old Memorial Arena so I wouldn't fall in my slippery rubber boots while taking a photo for The Intelligencer of Mayor J. Russell Scott dropping the puck for a National Hockey League Oldtimers – Ontario Provincial Police demonstration game.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau agreed to refit a rose into his jacket's lapel buttonhole so I could retake a photo with my press camera after the flash failed at nearby Canadian Forces Base Trenton before a downtown election campaign stop in 1972. Big city photographers scoffed at the young whipper-snapper lensman's request — briefly, before the PM smiled and asked me if I'd been successful.

Then there was the time I shook John George Diefenbaker's hand when introduced after a small plane carrying him landed at Picton's airport in June, 1975. I later photographed him in front of the town's former Anglican church, which became the Prince Edward County Museum. I still have a radio station friend's tape recording of "Dief the Chief" telling a crowd of about 150 people that the 1957-1963 prime minister was prepared to retire "any February the 31st" someone might choose. The 79-year-old had just been shown the erroneous Feb. 31, 1860 inscription on William Pierce's headstone at a nearby cemetery and was ad-libbing about people suggesting he should resign as a Member of Parliament.

Diefenbaker, Hemingway, Mozart, Richard and Trudeau have all been featured on stamps, posthumously.

They came to mind when WTSC newsletter editor Robert Timberg suggested members "bring in a stamp or piece of postal history showing someone you would like to meet/have met. Explain your selection."

Club president Sid Mensinga jumped on board for Rob's super subject, saying he would enjoy being able to talk with Adolphus Egerton Ryerson (1803-1882), an Ontario-born farmer, Methodist preacher, editor, educator and politician after whom Ryerson University in Toronto is named.

Some of his handwritten letters have survived, and that's what "entires" — folded letters and letters still in covers — sometimes have to offer, Sid says. A retired school principal and keen history buff, he has several covers that once contained letters Ryerson wrote to his daughter, Sophie Ryerson Harris, who had a troubled marriage. Her husband, Edward Harris, was the son of Amelia Ryerse Harris, Egerton Ryerson's first cousin.

Sid has read letters penned by Amelia Harris, which were published in a book he has, plus letters Egerton Ryerson wrote to his daughter, "which were also published."

Those volumes, plus a provincial education official's book, "help my understanding of the correspondence and the covers which passed between these two relations."

Stamps and postal history can be a launching platform for research into a person's life, contributions to the world, missteps and successes, which may not be included in traditional history books.

Imagination and a bit of whimsy, such as what you might ask Mozart (1756-1791) or Hemingway (1899-1961), is the key.

Remember, the learning workshop starts at 7 p.m., or thereabouts, and goes on until whenever.

Come early on Tuesday, June 5, select a good seat and prepare to share.

Ian

Illustrations for June Learning Workshop

Maurice "Rocket" Richard (1921-2000) on 2017 Canadian \$1.80 commemorative



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on 1941 Austria stamp commemorating 150th anniversary of the composer's death in 1791 (on left) and Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) on 25-cent U.S. stamp issued in 1989 (on right)

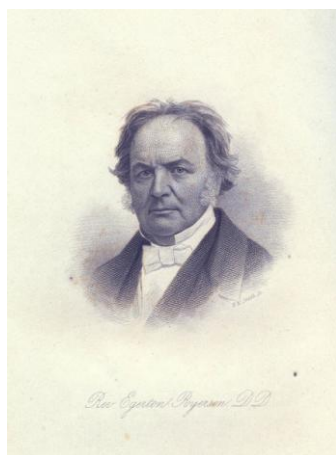


Member of Parliament John Diefenbaker, Canada's prime minister June 21, 1957 - April 22, 1963, addresses audience in Picton, Ontario in June 1975 (Photo by Ian Robertson)

Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1919-2000) on 47-cent Canada commemorative issued in 2001 (on left) and John George Diefenbaker (1895-1979) on 17-cent stamp Canada issued in 1980 (on right)



Rev. Egerton Ryerson (1803-1882)



Harry Sutherland Library

Saturday Extended Hours

May 19, 10 to 4

June 9, 10 to 6 (coincides with the North Toronto Stamp Club bourse taking place up the street from the library; also, members of the Toronto Postcard Club will visit the library between 2 and 4)

Wednesday Extended Hours

May 23, 10 to 7

June 27, 10 to 7

Regular hours are Monday to Thursday from 10 to 4.

From the library: "Sign up for our Friends of the Harry Sutherland Newsletter and receive the latest updates. Simply email: library@greenefoundation.ca to be placed on our mailing list or call (416) 921-2073."

Shows

ORAPEX 2018, the 57th edition of the **Ottawa RA Centre Philatelic Exhibition (ORAPEX)**, will take place on **May 5 - 6** in **Ottawa**.

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

Royal *2018* Royale, the 90th annual convention and AGM of the RPSC, will take place in **St. Catharines** on **June 22 - 24**.

<https://www.rpsc.org/royal2018/>

The **PHSC Symposium 2018** will take place in **Hamilton** and vicinity on **July 19 - 22**.

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

Trajan Media's **National Postage Stamp and Coin Show** will take place in **Mississauga** on **September 8 - 9**.

<https://stampandcoinshow.com/>

BNAPEX 2018, the 2018 convention, exhibition and bourse of the British North America Philatelic Society, will take place on **September 21 - 23** in **Ville de Québec - Quebec City**.

<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2018/>

CANPEX 2018 will take place in **London** on **October 13 - 14**.

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

GHRG (BNAPS)

The Golden Horseshoe Regional Group will meet in Ancaster on Saturday, May 26. Guest speaker and BNAPS vice-president Ken Lemke will talk about "The Lady Boats". For details on time and location, check:

<http://www.bnaps.org/regional/ghrg/gh.htm>

Mail Delivery

Italy ~ A former Italian postman is facing charges after police found 400 kg of undelivered mail in his home in the northern city of Turin. Police said he told them he did not deliver mail for three years because his salary was too low. He quit the job in 2017.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/06/for-mer-postman-found-with-400kg-of-undelivered-mail-in-italy>

United States ~ A Brooklyn, New York postal worker has been charged after officials found over 17,000 pieces of undelivered mail stashed at his home and in his car and work locker. He claimed he was overwhelmed by the amount of mail he had to deliver, but said he did deliver all the important ones.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/20/us/mailman-charged-new-york/>

Philatelic Trivia

Did you know that Amelia Earhart used the sale of her flown philatelic souvenirs to help defray the expenses of her historic flights. Collectors were eager to obtain autographed memorabilia of the flights.

Her second attempt to fly around the world at the equator (the first ended in a crash) commenced on June 1, 1937. Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan carried approximately 5,000 souvenir covers in the nose cargo compartment of her Lockheed Electra airplane. Collectors had ordered and paid \$5 each for an autographed, cacheted cover through Gimbels stamp galleries in advance of the flight. Earhart was to add stamps and acquire postmarks along the route.

Her plane disappeared on July 2, 1937 somewhere in the vicinity of Howland Island in the central Pacific Ocean where she was to refuel, 3100 km southwest of Honolulu.

(With thanks to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum)

75th Annual NTSC Exhibition

The 75th annual exhibition of the North Toronto Stamp Club was held in Mississauga on April 7 - 8 in conjunction with Trajan Media's National Postage Stamp and Coin Show.

All WTSC members who participated in the exhibition are to be congratulated, with particular mention of David Gooderham, Don Hedger and Garfield Portch:

- David received a Vermeil for "The 1994-1998 Great Britain Definitive Mini-Sheet".
- Don received a Large Vermeil, and a special award for Best Thematic or Topical Exhibit, for "Epic of Vimy: A Canadian Pilgrimage".
- Garfield earned a Gold for "The Cartier Quadracentenary Issue of 1934".

Bloody Stamps!

Royal *2018* Royale will be held from June 22-24 in St. Catharines, and *The Canadian Philatelist* will be covering it. The national stamp show is the highlight of the year for The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and there will be lots of exhibits on hand. Check out this month's edition of *TCP* for a sneak preview of one of those exhibits. It features the work of Jean Wang of the North Toronto Stamp Club with an exhibit called "Blood in the Time of War".



Blood donations are precious gifts of life. Without them, trauma victims and cancer patients would not receive life-saving transfusions. Individuals with bleeding and blood disorders would not receive any of the myriad medicines that are prepared from blood components. There was a time, however, when blood transfusion was not the straightforward procedure it is today. In fact, early transfusions were carried out directly from donor to recipient, because there was no way to prevent the blood from clotting once it was removed from the body. This limited the usefulness of blood transfusion as a medical treatment. Then came a war, and all things changed.

Read all about it in the May/June issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*.

Herb Colling
Editor TCP

Controversial U.S. Stamps

Several weeks back, on April 16, 2018, History published an article listing the 11 most controversial stamps in American history. As the article notes, "stamps have often caused controversy, usually for reasons the post office never anticipated."

To see the list, visit:

<https://www.history.com/news/11-most-controversial-stamps-in-u-s-history>

It would be a worthwhile exercise for someone to come up with a similar list for Canada.

An Exciting Opportunity for Philatelists Aged 18 to 35

In early April the Royal Philatelic Society London issued the following press release.

The Royal Philatelic Society London is organising a philatelic visit to London for young philatelists aged between 18 and 35. This follows a successful initiative introduced by the Club de Monte Carlo last year at MonacoPhil. London is still regarded as the philatelic capital of the world and the programme aims at proving this claim. The visit will include the following philatelic highlights:

September 12: Guided Tour of Autumn Stampex and in the evening attending the RPSL President's Dinner.

September 13: Guided Tour of the Royal Philatelic Society London where a part of The Queen's Philatelic Collection will be exhibited.

September 14: Guided Tour of the British Library Philatelic Collection and The Postal Museum London.

The costs of travel, accommodation and attendance at the dinner will be sponsored in full. Other expenses (meals, etc.) will have to be paid for by the delegates.

Unfortunately, the number of participants is limited to maximum 20. The selection of the participants will be based on their philatelic CV.

All participants must be members of the RPSL or should apply for membership. For those still full-time students, there is 'associate membership' with an annual fee of only £10. All others should apply for full membership.

More information is available from John Davies FRPSL, Council Member of the RPSL, who has organised the programme (davies1890@btinternet.com).

Canada Post Stamp Launch

On Thursday, April 5, 2018, at OCAD University in downtown Toronto, Canada Post unveiled its 2018 Great Canadian Illustrators stamps, commemorating five of the country's best illustrators. Club president Sid Mensinga and newsletter editor Bob Timberg were pleased to receive an invitation and attend the event. Bob also represented The RPSC. Sid had the artists sign the complimentary first day cover.

The Last Official Act of FDR

The following is copied, with minor editorial changes, from <https://fdrlibrary.wordpress.com/tag/stamps/>.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, a little over 73 years ago. His last official act minutes before his death involved stamps.

The President was always very involved in the design and issuance of United States postage stamps. With the first United Nations Conference scheduled to begin on April 25, 1945 in San Francisco, Postmaster General Frank Walker sent a memorandum on April 9 asking the President to select his preferred design for the UN Conference commemorative stamp. A typed notation made at the top of this memo shows that on April 11, the day before he died, the President selected Design No. 1 to be issued as a five cent stamp and printed in blue.

But this was not his last official act. As Presidential Secretary William Hassett wrote in a memorandum to Postmaster General Walker on April 16, the President's last official directive, given just a half hour before he was stricken, was to agree to the Postmaster's request that the President purchase the first issue of the UN Conference commemorative. The President also instructed that gift albums of the new stamps should be presented to all of the Conference delegates by the Secretary of State.

It is fitting that President Roosevelt's last official act involved the intertwining of two things he loved: stamp collecting and the United Nations.

New Exhibit at Toronto's First Post Office - Postcards: India

As part of the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival, Toronto's First Post Office is hosting a new exhibit by artist Linda Ward Selbie, "Postcards: India". The exhibit runs from April 27 to May 31, 2018.

India is a country that celebrates national events with commemorative postage stamps and still heavily relies on paper technology for communication. Postcards and handwritten letters remain treasured mementos.

Toronto's First Post Office is located at 260 Adelaide Street East in downtown Toronto.

<https://www.townofyork.com/events.html>

New Exhibition at the National Postal Museum (Smithsonian)

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the world's first regularly scheduled airmail service (between Washington, Philadelphia and New York) and the pilots who flew the routes, the National Postal Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC is set to open a new exhibition "Postmen of the Skies" on May 1, 2018.

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/upcoming/index.html>