

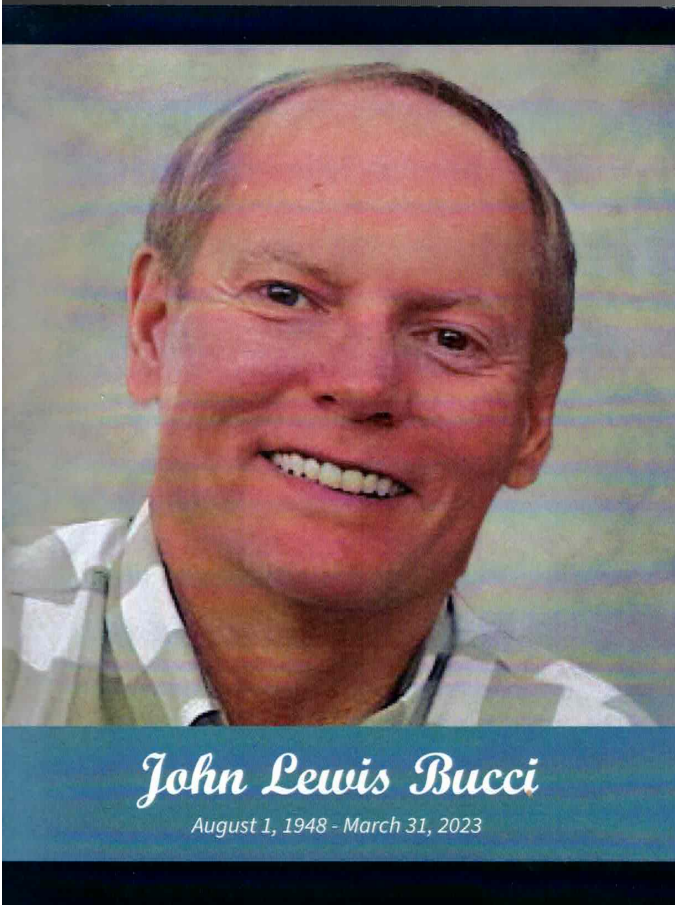
EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

Volume 112, Number 5 May 2023 ISSN: 0046-1318

Mailing address: P.O. Box 399, Edmonton AB T5J 2J6

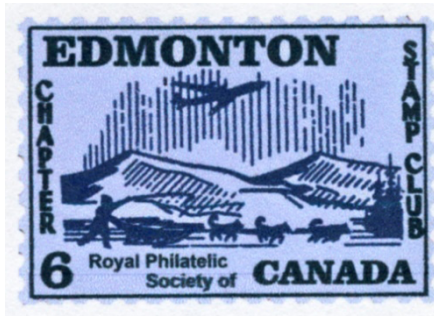
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



Regular meetings

St. Joseph High School Cafeteria, 10830 - 109 Street, 6:00 pm

Check page 16 for meeting dates



The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society. **The editor welcomes communications of all kinds – letters, comments, and articles.**

These may be forwarded to John-

Paul Himka, Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6, or click “contact” on our website (edmontonstampclub.ca) or email to jhimka@ualberta.ca.

2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

Area code 780 (unless otherwise noted)

Wissink, Barend (webmaster contact)	President	922-5019	wissink@mcsnet.ca
Dykstra, Ed	Vice President	587-341-0804	eddykstra@shaw.ca
Hewitt, Bob	Treasurer	466-0173	bobhewitt56@gmail.com
Stein, Warren (Archivist)	Secretary	463-9881	warren.stein@worleyparsons.com
Tauber, Fred	Membership	469-3034	fxtauber@shaw.ca
Pacey, Jeff	Director	989-3491	jpacey@telus.net
Spencer, Keith (NWFSC, RPSC liaison)	Director	437-1787	keithrspencer41@gmail.com
Hetke, Dave	Director	909-3974	davehetke@yahoo.com
Fast, Malcom	Director	966-2812	mfast@beyondnumbers.ca
Bailey, Ken	Director	990-4879	kbailey1@telusplanet.net
Pattison, Dave	Director	914-7742	pattisond@ymail.com

Himka, John-Paul	<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	695-7903	jhimka@ualberta.ca
Lockau, Jim	Past President	467-4825	russiancollection1975@gmail.com
Piercey, David	BNAPS liaison	437-2771	dpiercey@telus.net
Kuester, Peter	Circuits Manager	451-0520	peju@shaw.ca

Advertising rate schedule: Full page \$30, half page \$18. Nonmembers, \$1.00 per line up to 5 lines. Ten issue discount 20%. Five issue discount 10%. Members, free, up to 5 lines. Contact Fred Tauber at fxtauber@shaw.ca or Edmonton Stamp Club by mail.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I dedicate this message to my friend John Bucci, whose funeral memorial service was held on Thursday 14 April 2023.

Quite a few Edmonton Stamp Club members attended the service. It was a hard thing to get a notice out, since it didn't arrive in time for the 4 April meeting and too late for the April *Bulletin*. In situations where time is critical emails can be sent out, but that would require an extra person to do so. We still struggle with

communications, but sooner or later that is one of the things we will have to deal with.

We have started to go through the aftermath of a very successful show, and here we will invite any of our members to joining us in our show committee. Meetings will start soon.

The summer meeting is still not settled, but will soon be done one way or another.

John-Paul Himka is looking for articles. Get your creative juices flowing. Tell us why you collect that item that you found in the dollar junk box.

Have ideas how to improve the club? Leave a note in the suggestion box on the front table.

Remember the donation jar. Help offset the cost of the spring show!

Our special 50/50 draw is still going on at \$2 per ticket.

-- Barend

Mutiny on #philately

Mark Boyce

Graham Beck has produced another brilliant YouTube video on the stamps of the Pitcairn Islands in his series “Exploring Stamps” (youtube.com/watch?v=gokMw-yWzr4). Beck calls to attention the beautiful stamps from this British Island Territory of four volcanic islands in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The colony is administered by the British High Commission in New Zealand. The Pitcairn Islands is where the mutineers of 1790 from HMS Bounty settled along with consorts from Tahiti. The total population of Pitcairn Island is only forty-seven inhabitants as of 2021, mostly descendants from the original mutineers and Tahitian women.

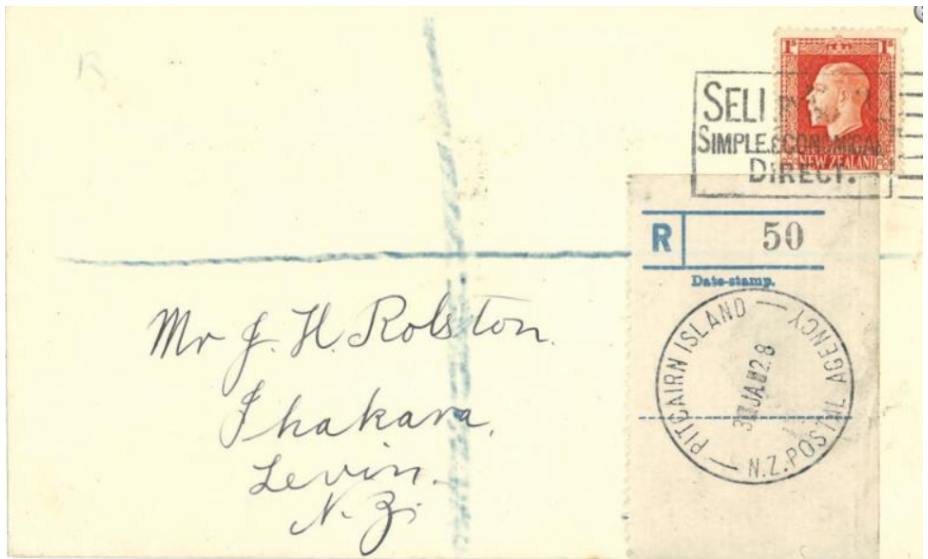
Remarkably, this tiny population on one of the most remote places on earth has a rich philatelic history of over a hundred years. Postal affairs for the Pitcairn Islands are administered by New Zealand. As in New Zealand, the NZ pound was replaced by NZ dollars in 1967.

Stamps of New Zealand used on Pitcairn Island (the only inhabited island) are highly desirable covers. In their sale of 11 April 2023, Mowbray Auctions offered five New Zealand King George V covers from 1928 with the latest bids about NZ \$400 each. In 1940 the Pitcairn Islands began issuing their own King George VI stamps following the typical designs of British colonies. Current listings for the Pitcairn Islands by Scott includes about nine hundred stamps as of 2023. In addition to the stamps issued by the Pitcairn Islands, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue also lists stamps of New Zealand used on Pitcairn Island for about twelve years prior to stamps being issued for Pitcairn Islands. I illustrate an example at the top of the next page.

DUES ARE DUE

JUNE 30TH FOR 2023-2024 CLUB YEAR

Individual \$30, Family \$40



Posted on Pitcairn Island in 1928 with a one-shilling King George V stamp of New Zealand (Scott 159). The circle date stamp postmark is centered on a registration label, and the stamp is cancelled with a machine slogan. Current catalogue value for this cover, SG Z14, is £160. Bid at auction is ~NZ \$400. (The Z numbers refer to uses of New Zealand stamps in the Pitcairn Islands before the Islands issued their own stamps.)

The next illustration is a 1957 pre-decimal 1d Queen Elizabeth II mint stamp featuring a map of Pitcairn Island, perf. 12 ½ x 13, Scott #21, SG #19, recess printed by De La Rue in London. This comes from a handsome set of twelve bicolored stamps. This stamp has a Scott catalogue value of US \$4.50 or SG value of £4.50. In black is a map of the island at latitude 25°04'S, longitude 130°06'W. The first British



mariner to map the location of the island in 1763 was Captain Philip Carteret who recorded the longitude three degrees off and as a result Captain James Cook was unable to find the island during the exploration of the Pacific Ocean in July 1773. Carteret named the island after a fifteen-year old crew member, Robert Pitcairn, who first sighted the island. Pitcairn later was killed in 1775 during the US Revolutionary War.

Finally, I show the high-value \$2 stamp, Scott 243, perf. 14 1/2 from the beautiful 1984 lithographed set of marine fishes. The stamp indicates allegiance to the queen with the crown and EIR symbol, and illustrates the white travally, sometimes called a striped jack, *Pseudocaranx dentax*. This is a widely distributed game fish in the family Cavangidae.



I certainly do not wish to expand my collecting interests, but the Pitcairn Islands might warrant some attention.

Canadian Navy Post of World War II: A Family Perspective

David V. Pattison

My interest in postage stamps started early. Like many, I was working with siblings and our parents to soak stamps off paper and to dry them in newspapers placed under living room rugs. My interest was renewed when I started researching my father's involvement as a Royal Canadian Navy Able Seaman. He was the mailman on the HMCS Skeena during WWII.

This article is divided into three parts:

1. Creation of the Canadian Postal Corps
2. Let's Follow a Military Letter
3. My Dad

Creation of the Canadian Postal Corps

The Canadian Postal Corps (CPC) was created on 3 May 1911 to handle the distribution of mail to and from members of the Canadian armed forces stationed abroad. However, the history of the postal service of the Canadian Forces dates back to the Louis Riel rebellion in 1885, when a military post office was installed at Swift Current, from which mounted couriers would carry correspondence sent to soldiers. Similarly, during the Boer War (1899-1902) a group from the Post Office department accompanied the Canadian soldiers in South Africa. In 1909, the first field post office of the Canadian Militia was opened at the Niagara training camp in Ontario. In 1911, when the Postal Corps was formed, certain members of the Post Office department were recruited to provide postal service for a network comprising a central post office and eight detachments responsible for field post offices installed in summer camps of the militia. When World War I broke out in 1914 and Canadian soldiers were sent to England, a central post office was established in London and numerous field post offices were created in the new training camps. Soon mobile field post offices were posted on the periphery of combat zones to serve the soldiers on the line of fire.

There were many military post offices established during World War II. To meet the urgent need for military personnel in these post offices, women enlisted in the Canadian Women Army Corps and were posted to the Canadian Postal Corps.

Let's Follow a Military Letter

Let us follow the path of a fictitious letter sent by Miss A of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to her fiancé overseas, Mr. B, a soldier somewhere in England during World War II. The letter posted in Winnipeg was routed via the civilian postal service as far as Ottawa, where the military mail was collected. At the Base Post Office in

Ottawa, dozens of clerks sorted military mail sent from all over Canada to Canadian soldiers overseas. The clerks did an initial sort: air army, land army, medical corps, etc. The mail was then sorted by division, then by brigade and by unit; finally it was assembled in bags leaving for overseas.



If the boat carrying the mailbag intended for Mr. B's unit was not attacked during the crossing, it dropped anchor in an English port three weeks later. The mail was then dispatched to the central post

office in Manchester (and later during the war, to the one in Wembley). From there it was transported to the mobile field post office attached to the division to which Mr. B belonged. The military postal workers accompanied the crews that supplied the units with food and equipment. They brought the mail to the soldiers, picked up the mail to be sent back, and offered certain postal services such as money orders. Their post office was located in the last truck on the line. Mr. B went to meet the military postal workers to receive the much-awaited letter from his fiancée.

In the event that Mr. B had been transferred to another unit, or was wounded and transported to a hospital, or worse yet if he had died in combat, Miss A's letter was forwarded to a special unit of the Canadian Postal Corps: the Postal Tracing Unit. The clerks in this unit were in a position to identify the new location of soldier B and, if he was still alive, to get his mail to him.

Throughout this process, the letter for soldier B was subjected to security procedures to prevent important intelligence from falling into the hands of spies. Military railway stations, ports and airports were under special surveillance to protect mail from theft or vandalism.

My Dad

David William Pattison enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy at the start of World War II. He considered the army but chose the navy and travelled by train from Fort William to Halifax. There he boarded the HMCS Skeena at Bedford Basin and for the duration of the war



Ship's company, HMCS Skeena, c. 1942-43

St. John's, Newfoundland (which was not part of Canada at the time), was the western base, and England the eastern. Escorting convoys was the destination mission. My Dad was a radio operator, an expert at Morse code and at de-coding messages. He was an auxiliary gunner on the 102mm deck guns.

Dad worked with the post office after high school so he became the mailman on the Skeena. I have several pictures of him carrying a mail bag. One picture of him at the Fleet Office in St John's picking up the mail for his shipmates. That picture was published in *New World Illustrated* (a Toronto-based magazine) used by the Canadian military.



I have researched the Skeena at the Military Museum in Calgary, the War Museum in Ottawa, the National Archives in Ottawa, and on various on-line sources. My postal collection interest is looking for covers from Canadian navy ships during the Second World War.



The Skeena was lost in a gale while anchored off Iceland on 25 October 1944. I'm always looking for covers that came off of Canadian Navy ships. I've found a few over the years. The Skeena was one of five warships the Canadians purchased from Great Britain in 1931. Newly built, the ship was a large destroyer. It is credited with the sinking of several U-boats in the mid-Atlantic, and my Dad said one U-boat shot a torpedo across the Skeena's bow. Bow insignia was D59.

After the Skeena was lost, Dad returned to Canada. Under a military education program he graduated in 1948 from Queen's University (Kingston) with an Honors Bachelor of Arts. He met my mother in 1948 at Christmas, and they were married in February 1952. Dad taught in Fort William and went to St. Michael's in Toronto 1954 for his teaching certificate. I think he played hockey at St. Mike's.

He never spoke about the war. In 1945, when he got back to Bedford Basin he said he threw his cigarettes in the harbor and never smoked again and never thought of the war again. ...except on Remembrance Day and as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

I want to thank a few people for their assistance as I've explored this stamp collecting interest, especially fellow club members – Joe, Peter, Ken, Ihor, and others.

ESC Members Questionnaire Part 5

94 Responses

Following is a summary of responses to questions #18, #19, #25, #26, #27, #28, #29 and #32.

Question #18. How often do you visit the ESC website?

91 responded to this question.

At least once each month – 18%

5 to 10 times each year – 20%

1 to 5 times each year – 36%

Never – 24%

Question #19. What changes or additional information would you like to see on the ESC website?

- Update current look
- Allow members to add info or chat online
- Add more links to research sites
- Promote the website in the *Bulletin*
- Provide list of upcoming auctions
- Provide advice on collection management
- Have some “only on the website” articles
- Add more promotion on benefits of being an ESC member
- More tidbits/news on the broader stamp scene
- More frequent updates
- Add back issues of the *Bulletin*
- Provide a listing of ESC member exhibits and publications
- Archive some outdated items
- Host online auctions
- Provide video clips of recent ESC meetings
- Remove info on past shows
- **Question #25. Where do you buy the majority of your stamps?** (members checked more than one box)
 - ESC Club Meetings – 36
 - Circuit Books – 22
 - eBay (online) – 26

Auction Houses – 31

Other –

Direct from dealers (10)

Canada Post (5)

Antique shows/shops

US Postal Service

Estates

Other stamp clubs

Stamp shows (2)

Overseas trading (2)

Garage sales

Question #26. Would you be interested and willing to attend online seminars (i.e. via Zoom) hosted by the ESC?

83 responded to this question.

Yes – 18%

No – 34%

Only if the topic was of particular interest to me – 48%

Question #27. The ESC wants to promote our club and services more effectively, including through various websites and social media platforms. Which of the following are you familiar with and comfortable using?

- Email - 69
- Google - 56
- Facebook - 31
- Twitter – 5
- Instagram – 4
- Pinterest – 2
- YouTube – 30
- Others – texting; duckduckgo.com; Zoom (2)
- None – 8

Question #28. If ESC launched a children’s stamp club, are there young people in your life you would be willing to introduce and/or bring to such a club?

78 responded to this question.

Yes – 21% (16)

No – 79% (62)

Question #29. Would you be willing to have your contact information and collecting interests shared with other club members as a way to help members with shared interests connect more easily?

83 responded to this question.

Yes – 76% (63)

No – 24% (20)

Question #32. Do you think that the ESC annual membership dues of \$30 are reasonable?

87 responded to this question.

Yes – 93% (81)

No – 7% (6)

Note that three of the “no” respondents suggested the dues should be higher.



Volunteers setting up this year’s Spring Show

How Many Members Do We Have?

64 life members

95 individual members

14 family memberships

Another Closed Album: Alan Meech



Alan was a longtime member of our club. He departed this life on 30 July 2022 at the age of 80. His obituary in the *Edmonton Journal* stated: "Alan was a kind and intelligent man, with a vast array of interests including stamp collecting, travel, languages, history, cooking, and reading. He earned multiple degrees, and traveled extensively, learning to speak a variety of languages. Alan's successful professional career, largely spent as Executive Director of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, was the source of both great friends and personal accomplishment." He was reputed to have had one of the best and most valuable Burma collections in the whole world.

Meeting Dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club meets Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joseph High School, 10830 - 109 Street. Park to the north of the school and use the main entrance at the southeast corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-467-4825 or 780-437-1787.

2023

May 1, 15 & 29
June 12 (elections)

Edmonton BNAPS

(British North America Philatelic Society) will meet on the last Sunday of the month. All BNAPSers welcome.

For information contact David Piercey at 780-437-2771

dpiercey@telus.net or Steven Friedenthal at 780-721-3669

stevefr1@telus.net

Coming Down the Pipe

Ooh-la-la. In our estate auction on 29 May: A Bluenose (Scott 158), fine, MH. Catalogue value: \$200. Who's going to steal it?

