

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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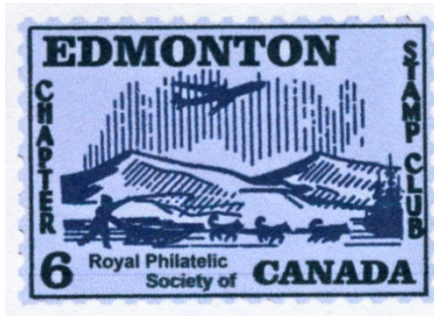
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, it's time again to elect a new board for our club. All positions are open and can be filled by a new challenger. For once I would like to see an actual vote take place, you know – a ballot, that piece of paper with a couple of names on it.

The summer social meeting and auction sale is now on our website and social media and is causing new outside interest. This past year has been one of the best years for new members, so if you see someone that does not look familiar, a warm welcome would be nice. Remember thirty-five years ago when you were a newbie – if no one talked to you, that would have ended up with you quitting, and the club would have dwindled to the point of extinction. So we dinosaurs: let's please be kind to the newbies.

As soon as I get more lots for the summer auction I will get them up on the website. Hopefully we can get it all done shortly after our 12 June meeting. Anyone that needs to have their lots picked up, please call me. My number is on p. 2 of this issue of the *Bulletin*.

The summer meeting is going to be held Saturday 29 July at 12:00 noon at the Central Lions Recreation Center, 11113-112 St., Edmonton.

John-Paul Himka is looking for articles, so get your creative juices flowing.

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

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

-- Barend

DUES ARE DUE
JUNE 30TH FOR 2023-2024 CLUB YEAR
Individual \$30, Family \$40

Editor's Travels

John-Paul Himka

I went on a trip – London-Warsaw-Lviv-Kyiv – from 19 April till 15 May of this year. Mainly I was visiting family and friends, but there were a few philatelic moments as well. I thought I'd share those experiences with the club.

In London I had work to do in the British Library. But I took a peek as well at the Canadian component of the Library's Philatelic Collections. It was pleasant to see a beautiful no. 3 and imagine it in my collection. Unfortunately, the stamps were covered in a crinkly vinyl that made a photograph impossible. So I am reduced to showing just the exterior of the collection. The panels slide out for examination.



In Warsaw I came upon a place called Stampozaurus. It mainly had new issues from various countries. I asked about my own collecting interest (Ukraine), but all the store had were the new, war-related issues Ukraine has been churning out since the full-scale Russian invasion.



In Lviv I visited an old stamp buddy whose health has so deteriorated he could not leave his apartment. I purchased part of his collection.

Kyiv was the most interesting place I visited, at least philatelically speaking. There is a philatelic store attached to the main post office. When I walked in, the place was packed. I had to



wait in line twenty minutes to get served. I had walked in with the insane idea of buying four or five copies of everything they had for sale. Reality struck: I am not Rockefeller, and you had to be Rockefeller to do what I imagined doing.

The stock in the shop was abundant and expensive and all of it war-related. I limited myself to buying some presentation packs, like the one illustrated on the next page, which honors the soldiers of the parachute storm forces. Just one of these babies cost \$28 CAD.



Later on I visited an old friend, actually one of Ukraine's most prominent philatelists, Valeriy Cherednychenko. There were armed soldiers preventing access to his apartment building, but he came down and explained that I was okay. We had some business to take care of, but we also talked about the philatelic situation. As I had seen at the post office's philatelic store and as he confirmed, the Ukrainian state was issuing a large number of philatelic products in connection with the war, both to raise funds and to spread the message about Ukraine's struggle against the behemoth to the north. Valeriy told me that this had a beneficial effect on our hobby. Lots of young people were buying these new philatelic materials as an investment and were getting interested in stamp collecting. "They think they'll get rich," Valeriy said, not with a great deal of sympathy or conviction. I suppose at one point their investments will go the way of Canadian plate blocks from the 1980s. I don't know.



Outpost Island

Keith Spencer

The very best description of this place I've ever seen was that it is "an eruption of land on the south shore of Great Slave Lake." Actually, it isn't just one eruption but several, two of which were of any particular interest. So, we're talking about an island cluster at the far west end of the lake's eastern arm, just north of Fort Resolution and about 94 km southeast of Yellowknife.



View of west side of mill at Outpost Island

Prospectors discovered gold and tungsten on the property in July 1935, and various companies and syndicates flailed away at making a go of the claims that were staked. As with many speculative ventures, there was never quite enough money to run a viable operation, and the ownership of the place went from the Athabasca Syndicate to the North American Timmins Corporation, the Slave Lake Gold Mines, the Tungsten Corporation of Canada, and Mount Wright Iron Mines, which purchased the claims in 1958.

All in all, it seems that tungsten was of more interest than gold, and the tungsten possibilities sparked interest in World War II and again during the Korean War. It is fair to say that the whole project was uneconomical due to the isolation of the place and poor market prices. It was doomed from the beginning.

A number of miners were recruited, and construction began on a mill and mine site in 1940. Workers were flown in or paddled in. But pay checks bounced regularly, while supplies arrived irregularly. In the summer of 1942, it became obvious to the miners that they had been more or less abandoned and that they were going to be spending a long winter close to Santa's workshop.

What to do? Well, they decided to build a large barge to make their escape. They dismantled buildings and pillaged the remaining supplies and equipment to build a magnificent barge which they christened the "Stinky D."

They set sail on 24 September 1942 with twenty men, three women, and two children. They barged to Fort Resolution and then were towed to Fort Smith by the Northern Transportation Company Limited boat, The Prospector. They were a unique group of seafarers, many of them Jehovah's Witnesses who had gone north to avoid conscription.

The plan was to drag the barge over the portage between Smith and Fitzgerald and to sail it up the Athabasca River to Fort McMurray, where they would take the Northern Alberta Railway to Edmonton. But along the way, most of the men found work either with Imperial Oil in Norman Wells or with Bechtel, Price, and Callahan, who were salvaging material after connection of the CANOL pipeline.

Presently, there is very little left at the site. The government commissioned a big ticket report built round remediation of the site, but there is very little left to stir memories of a great northern adventure.

Very little save some postal relics, including the cover on the next page, posted in a metaphysical moment from Outpost Island all the way to Los Angeles, California.



The Vatican’s Monumental Philatelic Scandal



This controversial stamp has been withdrawn from circulation by the Vatican

The monument “Padrão dos Descobrimentos”

The Vatican released a stamp that was only in circulation for a few days, 16-18 May 2023. It is now selling for a hundred times face value. The stamp was meant to commemorate World Youth Day, but the design was very reminiscent of a monument built by Portugal’s fascist dictatorship. Figures in the Portuguese church protested.

When a Deltiologist



Meets an Inkophile

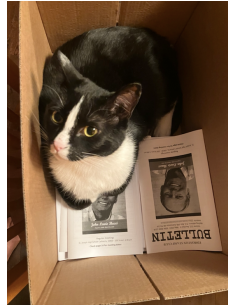


Will There Be a Story to Tell?

-- Barend Wissink

Jeff Pacey's Cat

I was getting the bulletins ready for mailing. You know how cats love boxes. Rufus had met John so maybe it was a goodbye cuddle.



Philately in Hell: A Lemberg Ghetto Postcard from 1943

John-Paul Himka

Germany had and continues to have a solid tradition of stamp collecting. This was true also in the period of the Third Reich (1933-45). During their rapacious invasion of the Soviet Union, German soldiers took the opportunity to expand their collections. Some twenty years ago, I met a collector who had been a teenager during the German occupation of Ukraine. He was befriended by a German soldier who, like him, was a stamp collector. The soldier would often look over the young man's album, admiring some of its rarities, especially Tsarist Russian issues. As it became necessary in summer 1943 to retreat in the face of the advancing Red Army, the soldier asked the youngster for one last look at his collection. This time, though, when the teenager brought over his album, the German soldier pulled out a pistol and said he was taking the collection back with him to Germany. Of course, it was never recovered.

This same kind of mixture of philatelic passion and criminality is demonstrated in the postcard depicted in this article. Figure 1 shows a circle date stamp cancelling a stamp of the General Government (German-occupied Poland), Scott Poland N76. The cancel says "Judenrat." This means that the postcard was used for

correspondence within a ghetto. The Judenrat, or Jewish council, constituted the administration of a ghetto. The location of this ghetto was, as the cancel informs us, Lemberg. This was the German name for the city of Lviv, today in the western region of Ukraine, not far from the Polish border. All this makes sense until we come to the date: 8 June 1943. I'll point out the problems with that date soon enough.



Figure 1

From the text side of the postcard (Figure 2), we learn that the postcard was allegedly sent by an I. Masfeld from Lemberg to an A. Waksman, also in Lemberg. I suspect that Masfeld was the real name of the sender, but I doubt if Waksman existed at all. He supposedly lived at Grodzka St. 23, apt. 5, but there never was a Grodzka street in Lviv/Lemberg. There is a one-line message: "Ich bin gesund" – "I am well."

Let's hone in on the date, 8 June 1943.

The Lviv ghetto, the third largest in occupied Poland, was formed from mid-November to mid-December 1941. At first, the ghetto was open, but less than a year later it was enclosed with a

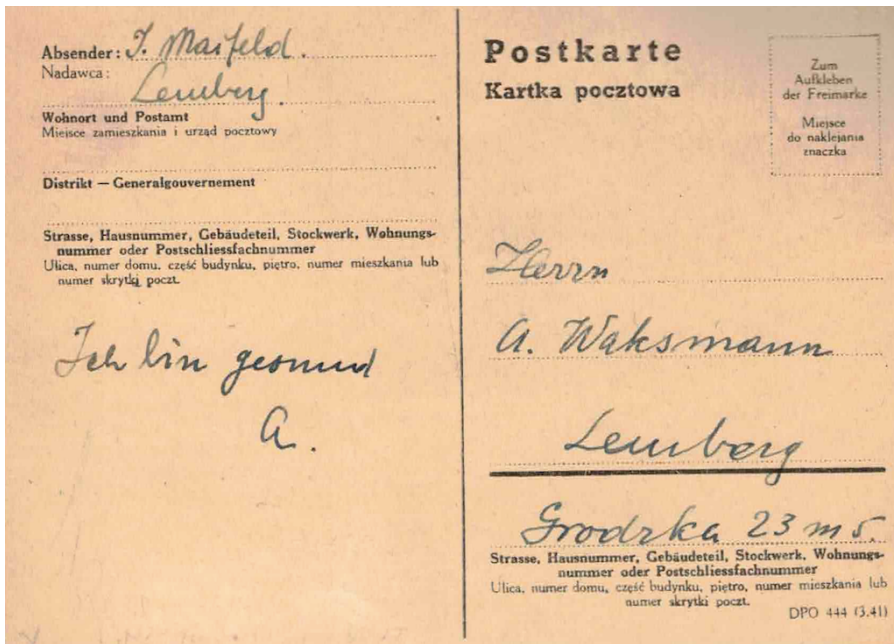


Figure 2

high wooden fence. There were 119,000 Jews left alive in Lviv in October 1941, but through systematic murder – by gas chamber in nearby Belzec or execution by firing squad on the outskirts of Lviv – their number was reduced to 24,000 by December 1942. In January 1943 another 10,000 Jews were executed. In addition, at that time the Gestapo killed almost all the the members of the Judenrat. The Germans no longer considered a Jewish council necessary for Lviv. And the ghetto as such was formally eliminated. It was reclassified as a Jewish labor camp, a *Julag*, in the parlance of the time. Then in May 1943 the Nazis embarked upon the murder of all the Jewish inhabitants of Lviv. The remaining Jews offered resistance, and reinforcements had to be brought in to kill them. But by 6 June 1943, the operation was essentially over.

So the most likely scenario for this Lemberg ghetto postcard is that two days later, one of the German policemen who had been involved in these atrocities walked into the empty Judenrat headquarters, found the ghetto post office, and fashioned for himself a nice philatelic souvenir.

World Stamps

News report about state gifts to the Royal Philatelic Collection

Apr 26, 2023, 10 AM



See *Linn's Stamp News*, <https://www.linns.com/news/world-stamps-postal-history/news-report-about-state-gifts-to-the-royal-philatelic-collection>

Post Office Losses

Canada Post recorded a pre-tax loss of \$107 million in the first quarter of 2023 because parcels revenue was “relatively flat” and transaction mail plus direct marketing revenue declined. The United States Postal Service reported a \$1.8 billion loss during the second quarter of 2023. Thank God we collect stamps and do not print them.

Membership of the Edmonton Stamp Club

We have 186 members, including 111 paid members, 61 life members, and 14 family members.

A Digital Library on US Philately

https://stampsmarter.org/learning/Home_USID.html

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 south-east corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-467-4825 or 780-437-1787.

2023-24

12 June (elections)
11 and 25 September
16 and 30 October
6 and 20 November
4 December
18 December (Christmas meeting)

8 and 22 January
5 and 26 February
4 and 18 March
8 and 22 April
6 and 27 May



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