

**EDMONTON STAMP CLUB**

# BULLETIN

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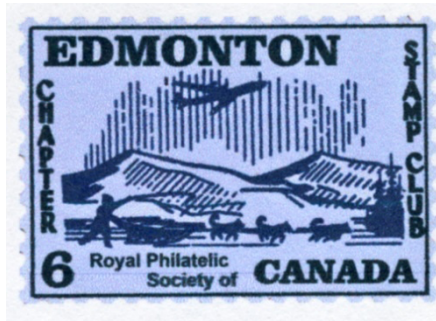
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



Regular meetings

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

**Check Page 12 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](http://edmontonstampclub.ca)) or email to [jhimka@ualberta.ca](mailto:jhimka@ualberta.ca).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Two meetings of the Edmonton Stamp Club already held and another meeting tonight (21 October) as I write this. Part of the joys of being newly elected president is knowing what to tell as updates. We had a fascinating email exchange with Tim Graff, and you can see his background story elsewhere in this Bulletin. Another member emailed looking to get more involved in the club. Stay tuned

for information on some new member committees.

The directors' meeting in October will be focused on the budget. We need to bring a budget forecast to a special meeting of the membership on 2 December. Memberships are declining, and we still need to deliver valuable services and programs to our membership.

Speaking of programs, if you are reading this article and haven't been to St Joe's for a while we need you back. Is there something that's stopping you? Please let us know.

If you have parts of your stamp collection that you wish to sell, please check our meeting dates and bring those items to our auctions. We have space available on the tables, and higher-value items have been going for a premium. Looking for an item? We have lots waiting for buyers.

Pre-Covid we had upwards of sixty stamp collectors in the seats, and the room was busy. Always the auctions, but many conversations also led to sales. These past two meetings we've had thirty-forty bidders. We need more collectors such as you, dear reader, to return to St. Joe's. Bring your sellable collections, AND bring your cash/ checks.

Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there (Josh Billings).

Happy trails – collecting.

David V. Pattison

## **A Bite Out of Time**

Judy Madden

headachesolvers(at)gmail.com

My brother and I recently paid to have a late cousin's stamp collection sent to us from the US. As collections go it was very modest. It was mainly US stamps and appeared to be something that he had indulged in as a teen and a young adult. However, it did contain a letter to him from an older friend who encouraged his collecting. This letter was fascinating. It was dated 15 March 1975 and was send from SS Margaret Sykes c/o Abu Simbel Shipping Agency in Alexadria, UAR. It said:

I am enclosing some stamps from Morocco and Spain. Today I'm in Alexandria, Egypt. This city was founded in 336 AD [actually BC – Ed.] by Alexander the Great.

At present we are anchored in the harbour waiting for a berth so we can begin to discharge 5,400 tons of flour.

I understand it will take about 9 days to accomplish this.

The harbour is crowded. Ships from England, Russia, Bulgaria, Germany, USA, Greece, Cypress, Liberia, Denmark, India, China, Jugoslavia and Panama are waiting for berths. There are 17 USSR cargo ships in port.

The USA opened trade relations with Egypt last year 1974 after 7 years of no trade.

Currently Egypt is still at war with Israel. Each night a patrol drops depth charges in the harbour to discourage frog men who would attempt to set off explosives to blow

up ships in the harbour. I have been ashore since we anchored here 3/8.

That's all for now.

Sincerely,  
Jim

Although he did not save the envelope, I did find what I do believe was the stamp, still on paper complete with the cancellation. Interesting to note is the use of UAR in the return address and on the cancellation. According to Wikipedia the United Arab Republic "was initially a political union between Egypt...and Syria from 1958 until Syria seceded from the union following the 1961 Syrian coup d'état. Egypt continued to be known officially as the United Arab Republic until it was formally dissolved by Anwar Sadat in September 1971."<sup>1</sup>

As a bit of a side note, we all know from elementary school science that sound travels better in water than in air. I would not have wanted to be a crewmember of the ships in port that had a day watch and actually to have expected to sleep nights.



<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Arab\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Republic).

## Canadian Stamp Puzzles – A Magic Square

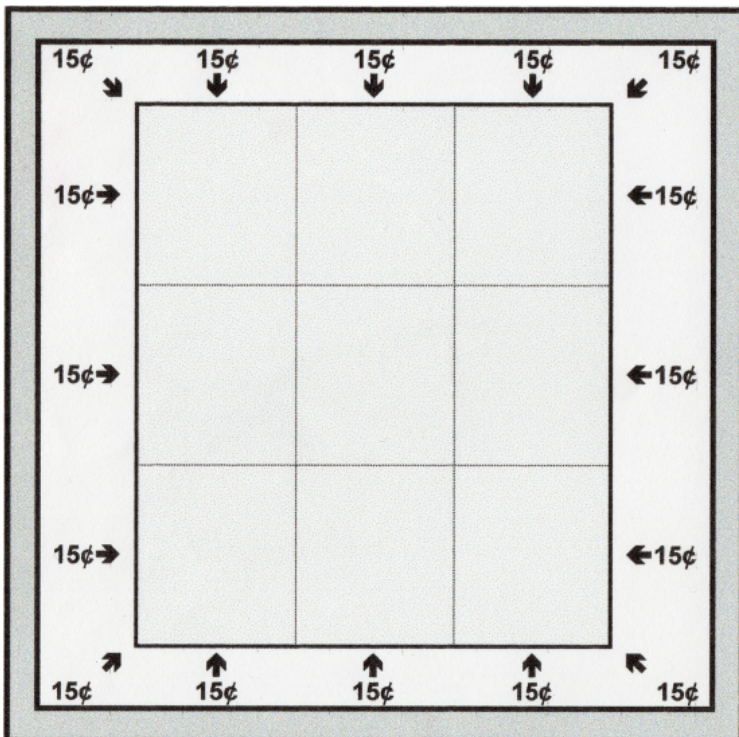
By Tony Doughty

The Beneficial Insects group of Canadian stamps was the first low value denomination series of stamps to include all 10 denominations 1¢ through 10¢, although the stamps were not all issued on the same date.



Nine of these stamps can be arranged in a unique 3X3 grid so that every row, every column and the two major diagonals will sum to 15¢.

First obtain copies of these stamps, then arrange nine of them in the grid below so that every row, every column and the two major diagonals sum to 15¢.





## About Us

[It is my dream to include a piece of the kind that follows in every issue of the *Bulletin*. The “About Us” rubric is meant to lubricate social interaction. Some people have been members of the club since time immemorial and know the other immemorials very well. But new people come to the club too, and it’s important to for them to get to know the immemorials and for the immemorials to get to know them. Sometimes the existence of a group of people who have worked together for decades intimidates newcomers. So this rubric is meant to lower the barriers. The key ingredients for a submission to “About Us” are: a picture, so people know what you look like; a bit about yourself as a person; and some account of your philatelic interests. Actually, you don’t even have to write the piece yourself. I can interview you at a meeting or over coffee and put together the story myself. Volunteers are welcome, but if necessary, I’m just going to press-gang individuals into furnishing me with the material I want. I don’t want to just publish stories about newbies. After all, who are those people who sit up front during the auctions? – John-Paul Himka, editor.]

### Tim Graff

#### Profile of a Start and Stop Collector



My name is Tim Graff, and I’m a fairly new ESC member, joining in 2023. John-Paul asked me to share my stamp collecting story and in doing so, to encourage you to share yours too.

First, I confess that I have started and stopped stamp collecting many times over the past fifty plus years. Unlike many of you who have had your collecting ebbs and flows, my starts were fresh, and my

stops cleared the threshing floor of any stamps I had collected. I was probably about 11 or 12 when I first started stamp collecting. I don't recall who introduced me to the hobby or how or even why I started. I did have an uncle who was into the hobby and collecting stamps certainly appealed to my organized personality and my love of history, but beyond that, I can't recall what or who inspired me to accumulate these colorful pieces of paper and stick them into an album.

What I can remember from those early days is ordering approvals from some company in the States, getting a package in the mail, picking a few stamps that interested me and then placing them into one of those Ambassador Albums. I don't recollect how long that initial inspiration lasted, but the album and the stamps eventually became dormant and I'm not sure what became of them.



After high school I joined the Canadian Armed Forces, and it was during that time that my interest in stamp collecting revived. My startup this time began with the purchase of one part of the Scott *International Stamp Album* series and then purchasing stamps to fill it. However, that new venture was cut short when I left the armed forces and started a seven-year journey through university and seminary,

followed by marriage, a new career, and a young family. As for that album, I decided to give it to an aunt who seemed far more interested in collecting than I did at that time.

Fast forward ten years and I found myself again stirred by the stamp bug. Living in Winnipeg at the time, I discovered one of those old stamp stores run by a chain-smoking proprietor. There I bought small collections and eventually accumulated more than I could possibly process, the curse of many collectors I have discovered. My growing stash and perhaps my inability to find a collecting niche or a simple way to organize this mountain of stamps eventually overwhelmed me. Shifting interests also led me to unload this burden and sell everything for a few hundred dollars.



It would be more than twenty years later, as I drew closer to retirement, that I decided to return to stamp collecting. As I launched into another fresh start, I came to recognize that stamp collecting was for me a release from the pressures of life; a small way to bring order to pieces of paper in a world of chaos, especially during the Covid pandemic.

I decided to be a worldwide collector or perhaps more accurately, an “accumulator,” or generalist who simply enjoys the process of putting whatever stamps I obtain into order.

Upon moving to Edmonton two years ago and officially retiring, I decided to join the Edmonton Stamp Club as a means of meeting other collectors, learning more about the hobby, and adding to my collection. From the very first meeting I was welcomed and shown how the meetings unfold, and how the auction is run. Although I do enjoy the auctions, it is really the people I have met who now make the hobby far more enjoyable and interesting. Discussions with long-term collectors have helped me find an approach to collecting that is sustainable and far less overwhelming. These same conversations have made me aware of how diverse this hobby can be. No two collectors seem to have the same approach.

Despite starting and stopping this hobby many times I think I’ve now become part of the ebb and flow of stamp collecting. I realize that we will all one day stop collecting stamps, but until that day, I look forward to the joy of gathering these pieces of paper, each with a story, and taking time to use this hobby as a means of sharing the more important aspects of life with others.



*Perhaps not my favorite stamp but the one I chose to represent myself on The Stamp Forum, an online forum. It is symbolic of my vocation as a pastor of the Lutheran church.*

## Winners at Our 21 October Meeting



Bret Dykstra won the door prize.



Frank Mohler won \$33.50 in the 50/50.

## Presentation at Our 21 October Meeting

Richard Barnes talked about the philatelic fallout from the Italian occupation of the Ionian Islands in 1941. For those of us with declining hearing abilities, a microphone would have been welcome.



### Attention APS and RPSC Members!

The American Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada are wondering how many members of the Edmonton Stamp Club are also members of the APS and RPSC. If you are a member of either organization, please let Bob Hewitt know, either personally at a meeting or else by email [robert.hewitt\(at\)spschools.org](mailto:robert.hewitt(at)spschools.org).

## Canadian Stamp Puzzles – A Magic Square Solution

By Tony Doughty

There is only one solution to this puzzle although the solution can be represented in several rotations and flips. The solution can be achieved either by brute force and numerous additions, or by simple logical analysis.

Rather than show the standard solution, I offer here a logical interpretation of the puzzle's solution.

First select the nine stamps representing a continuous series 1¢ through 9¢. Using these nine stamps determine the number of ways all groups of three stamps can sum to 15¢. 1+5+9, 2+5+8, 3+5+7, 4+5+6 are obvious selections, then there are the combinations 3+4+8, 1+6+8, 2+7+6, and 2+4+9 which are slightly less obvious.

Consider the first obvious group. All contain the number 5. The only way 5 can be represented in four directions is if it is placed in the central square in the grid.

Now consider all groupings. Only three groups contain a 4 (4+5+6, 3+4+8 and 2+4+9). The only way 4 can be represented in three directions in the grid is if it is placed in a corner cell. But the grouping 4+5+6 dictated that the diagonally opposite cell must contain a 6.

But only three groupings contain a 6 (4+5+6, 1+6+8 and 2+7+6). Similarly only three groupings contain an 8 and three contain a 4. Therefore logically 8 and 4 must also occupy corner cells.

I have used this puzzle in the past to entertain and challenge grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and hopefully to encourage their interest in both arithmetic and philately. Challenge those young minds, and when they exhaust their brute force method, amaze them with your logical brilliance.

Another grouping of the Beneficial Insects stamps can be used to construct a Magic Square adding up to 18¢. So challenge those young minds again to use their newfound logical brilliance.

Dutch stamps, you say? Well Dutch rhymes with touch which is a synonym for pet. So why don't you rub my belly?



## 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.

### 2024-25

4 and 18 November  
6 and 20 January  
10 and 31 March  
12 and 26 May

2 and 16 December  
3 and 24 February  
14 and 28 April  
9 and 23 June

### Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

There is some unfinished business from our Annual General Meeting. Hence, a special meeting (a continuation of the AGM) will be held along with our regular club meeting on 2 December to pass the financial statement.

